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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 56

www.saipantribune.com | **MONDAY** MARCH 21, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

IN SPAN OF TWO DAYS

CHC, MHS receive bomb threats

JON PEREZ/FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Police Sgt. Antonio Macaranas, right, talks to medical and non-medical staff of the Family Care Clinic after the Commonwealth Health Center after the hospital received a bomb threat last Friday. Inset, bomb-sniffing dogs from the K-9 unit were brought to CHC to do a sweep at the hospital. No bombs were found and an all-clear was declared.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Three bomb threat incidents happened in two government establishments on Saipan last Friday and Saturday.

Operations at the Commonwealth Healthcare Center and Marianas High School were disrupted after receiving the threats.

Teams from the Department of Public Safety, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services were dispatched to both locations to assess both threats.

According to Public Health and Hospital Preparedness director Warren Villagomez, they received multiple calls from the same source Friday morning.

See BOMB on Page 4

BSI's Macau-style gaming will be 1st on US soil

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
➤ BSI open to early advance of $20M community chest fund PAGE 4

Saipan's casino industry will rise or fold on the outcome of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Macau-style junket operations, a gaming program that will be the first of its kind on U.S. soil.

It is expected to present challenges for regulators tasked with investigating junket operators from Asia and enforcing laws and regulations not seen or sometimes more lenient in Macau and the Asia region where the casino will draw its high rollers from, according to interviews with regulators and BSI.

Best Sunshine CEO Mark Brown said the Macau-style junket operations " will be our next step," as they complete the construction and prepare for the full opening of the Grand Mari-

See BSI on Page 4

M/V *Luta* to arrive on Saipan today

PHOTO FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY
The M/V *Luta* is expected to arrive on Saipan today after a christening ceremony on Rota last Saturday. Flags were hoisted by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The M/V *Luta* is expected to arrive on Saipan today after a christening celebration held on Rota last Saturday.

Gathering for the celebration were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, members of the Cabinet, and other government officials.

» **Christening held on Rota**

As part of the ceremony, the 150-foot long, 500-ton cargo ship was blessed by Fr. Ike Ayuyu.

The flags of the U.S and the CNMI were hoisted by Torres and Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig.

Torres encouraged the public to support the investment made for M/V *Luta*.

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INSIDE

LOCAL
The Public School System has launched on Tinian Thursday an education campaign that will combat the spread of illegal drugs.
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NATION
Eyeing a new future with the U.S., Cubans are preparing their famed capital for a long-awaited visit by President Barack Obama.
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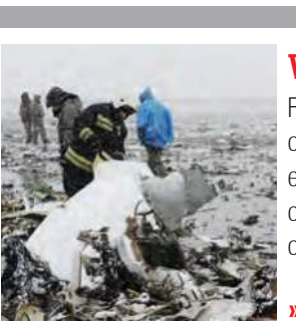

WORLD
FlyDubai crashed Saturday over the airport in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, killing all 61 everyone aboard.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

ON ORDER FOR TDHC TO REFRAIN FROM SELLING, TRANSFERRING ASSETS

Labor: Court order may impede ability to collect $416K in damages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is worried that the federal court's recent order to the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino to refrain from selling or transferring any of its property or assets, except in the normal course of business, could impede Labor's ability to collect the remaining $416,241.37 in judgment for liquidated damages against Tinian Dynasty for non-payment of wages to its employees.

Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero has requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow Labor to intervene in the lawsuit of two plane crash survivors for the limited purpose of ensuring that it can enforce Labor's interest, and that of the unpaid Tinian Dynasty employees.

Assistant attorney general Michael Witry, counsel for Labor, filed in federal court on Friday a notice of motion and motion for limited intervention.

Witry said Labor should be allowed to intervene for the limited purpose of modifying the court's order to allow Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, to pay liquidated damages to its employees.

Witry said Labor's judgment required HKE to make payments to Tinian Dynasty's employees $1,321,637.09 in back wages and $416,241.37 in liquidated damages, or for a total of $1,737,878.46.

Witry said HKE made timely payment of the first $619,734.18 in back wages, which was due on Feb. 23, 2016.

Witry said HKE paid the remaining $701,902.91 in back wages on March 15, 2016, but did not pay the liquidated damages.

Witry said the court's order, which prevents HKE from making payments other than those in the ordinary course of business, stands in the way of Labor's duty to ensure that the workers are paid for their work.

Witry said the federal court should permit Labor to intervene in this action to prevent protect its interest in enforcing the Commonwealth labor laws.

He said HKE simply cannot make a timely payment to the employees so long as the court is preventing them from doing so.

Witry said there is even a possibility that this action could result in HKE running out of funds, leaving it entirely unable to pay the penalty for forcing its employees to work unpaid.

"Because the order restricting HKE's ability to spend money conflicts with Labor's order requiring the payment of liquidated damages, Labor's interest is directly impeded," Witry said. In her declaration in support of Labor's motion to intervene, DeLeon Guerrero said Labor's judgment on Feb. 23, 2016, arose because HKE failed to pay its employees for several months, but forced them to continue working.

DeLeon Guerrero said HKE made its first payment of $619,734.18 for back wages on Feb. 23, 2016, and the second payment of $701,902.91 for back wages on March 15, 2016. pursuant to the judgment.

Deleon Guerrero said HKE did not make the payment of liquidated damages in the amount of $416,241.37 on the due date of March 15, 2016.

Plane crash survivors Dr. Jun Takimoto and Mr. Tomoyuki moved the court to enforce terms of their settlement agreement and the court's order.

The survivors, through counsel Richard Pierce, claimed that HKE owes them at least $1.3 million for breaching their settlement agreements.

See LABOR on Page 4

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Only few pets remain at animal shelter

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only a few dogs and cats are left for adoption at the animal shelter in Lower Base, according to Saipan Cares for Animals. SCfA is trying to have the animals—10 dogs and two cats—adopted as the facility will be closed down for good.

The Department of Public Works-Building Safety Code Division has deemed the animal shelter, which is under the Saipan Mayor's Office, structurally unsafe after the damage brought by Typhoon Soudelor.

The DPW-BSCD has ordered the staff and volunteers of the animal shelter to vacate the facility on or before March 31, 2016. Soudelor tore off the roof and walls of the animal shelter prompting the volunteers and staff of the Animal Control Office to cover the cages with tarp just to keep the dogs and cats dry.

That's why SCfA president Jason Hudy and other volunteers made a plea to the community to adopt a pet otherwise they would be put down or euthanized since the shelter is closing.

SCfA, in a post on their Facebook page, said there was another tremendous response from the community. The group added close to 20 dogs and eight cats were adopted.

"Thank you to everyone who adopted, and special thank you to Beth Pliscou, Nicole Essa, and Spencer Marchadesch who are doing all the hands-on work at the shelter," SCfA said.

The SCfA added that there are still 10 days before the shelter closes and animals left would be euthanized. The Saipan Mayor's Office has no temporary facility to house the impounded dogs and cats.

The SCfA and Animal Control Office program manager Spencer Marchadesch is again appealing to members of the community to adopt a pet. Those who are interested can visit the animal shelter in Lower Base.

The animal shelter is open from 7:30am to 4:30pm everyday. A $6 license fee is needed in adopting a dog that has already been spayed or neutered. Cats can be taken home immediately since they do not need to be registered.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or text or call Marchadesch at 783-4743 or Hudy at 789-9464 or Essa at 788-3000. You can also visit the SCfA Facebook page or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com or email Hudy at Jason@JasonHudy.com.

DOI issues $730K authorization to proceed with CUC Tank 103 project

The U.S. Department of the Interior has issued an authorization to proceed in the amount of $730,614 for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Tank 103 project.

DOI Office of Insular Affairs grants management specialist Keith W. Aughenbaugh submitted to CNMI Capital Improvement Projects administrator Virginia Villagomez on Thursday the authorization to proceed with the Tank 103 cleanout, inspection and repair project.

Aughenbaugh said OIA has reviewed the memorandum-for-record dated March 4, 2016, requesting the use of fiscal year 2016 CIP funding for the Tank 103 project.

As a result, Aughenbaugh said, OIA finds the project to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and Department of Interior NEPA Regulations.

Tank 103 is CUC's only aboveground storage tank that can hold more than a day's supply of fuel. Located in Lower Base, the tank was shut down and repaired due to leaks. The leak reportedly contributes to oil contamination at Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

Assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, counsel for the CNMI government, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday about DOI's authorization to proceed for Tank 103 project.

Sablan said the $730,614 will be available for the project described in the authorization to proceed and supporting scope of work and will not be reprogrammed without the mutual agreement of the parties.

Sablan said with this notice and two previous notices, the CNMI has met its $5 million funding requirements for Fiscal Year 2016.

Pursuant to the court's final order, the CNMI must deposit $5 million into the court's registry or file a notice with the court of DOI's authorization to proceed for funding SO2 Projects by Feb. 1, 2016.

The parties—the CNMI government, CUC, and the U.S. government—stipulated to extend the deadline twice. The court approved the stipulations.

DOI had already issued authorizations to proceed in the amount of $3,887,161 for CUC's pipeline construction project and $382,225 for construction management by Engineering Environmental Management Company (EEMC).

Last Jan. 29, DOI approved the CNMI government's request for additional $5 million in funding for CUC's Stipulated Order 2 projects.

The SO2 projects refer to the decommissioning of the existing CUC pipeline and smart pigging of the new CUC pipeline; waste management for Power Plants 1 and 2 on Saipan and Rota power plant; engineering and design of facility drainage improvements for Power Plants 1 and 2; soil cleanup for Power Plant 1, and SO2 construction management by EEMC. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man gets 30 days in jail for blocking car and threatening to stab driver

A man accused of blocking a car on a roadway in Garapan and threatening to kill the driver with a knife has entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to 30 days in prison.

Eliot Elias, 24, pleaded guilty last week to the offense of assault.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman accepted the defendant's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Wiseman sentenced Elias to six months imprisonment, all suspended except 30 days.

Elias was given credit for four days of time served. His release date from the Department of Corrections is April 10, 2016.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on supervised probation for one year. He was ordered to pay a $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Elias was required to undergo any counseling recommended by the Community Guidance Center and will be prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages during the duration of probation.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, Elias was drunk and threatened to beat up Waheed Nawaz on Nov. 19, 2015.

Police detective Nicholas Rabauliman stated in his report that a police officer responded to Sonoda Apartment in Garapan on Nov. 19, 2015, at 9:21pm where a disturbing the peace incident was reported.

Rabauliman said the officer met with the victim who told him that he was scared because Elias threatened to kill him with a knife.

The victim said he was on his way to pick up his friend who resides at the Sonoda Apartment.

While the victim was driving along the roadway, Elias stood in front of the vehicle.

Elias walked over to the driver's side window, asked who the victim was and his passenger.

The victim told Elias that his companion is a worker from his business.

Elias said he did not care about him or his companion and that he could beat both of them up.

Elias told the victim to call the police or else he would cut his throat.

While the victim was calling the police on the phone, Elias allegedly tried to stab him repeatedly with a huge knife.

A witness blocked Elias and pulled him away from the victim.

The victim drove to a nearby tennis court, where he waited for the police to arrive. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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BSI open to early advance of $20M community chest fund

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. have discussed an early release of the casino license mandated "community chest fund" of $20 million, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Per the 2014 licensing agreement, Best Sunshine has to release the $20 million to the CNMI government within 60 days after they start work on "Phase 1" of their project.

Some think that's the Grand Mariana Casino Resort currently undergoing construction in Garapan, but that project, is BSI's "initial gaming facility" per its license, and the community chest fund will be released on the "next building," eyed in Marpi, for "an end of 2018 payment," according to CEO Mark Brown.

"If there is monies needed in advance, are we open to discuss that? Absolutely. And that's what the conversation was about," Brown said, when asked about the casino's discussions with the Torres.

Brown said they have had close discussion on how they can continue to help the community, noting community needs and assistance to get the island back on track after Typhoon Soudelor last year.

On advancing the chest fund money early, Brown said this was "one piece of the conversation among multiple pieces."

"Would you ever give the $20 million sooner? If you need it. Would you ever do this, would you build us this? Yes. We've had many discussions, whether it's on schools, public buildings, or on whether it's giving the chest fund earlier. It was part of a conversation with many different components." ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

BSI

From Page 1

ana Casino Resort, a 14-story resort towering over the heart of Garapan, in April 2017. The discussion for junket operations then, he said, will be on a "profit share basis." Slots at their temporary casino in T-Galleria do very well, he said, at $200 to $300 a day, as well as their gaming tables that collect a few thousand a day, but "VIP," he added, "is where you make the millions."

Dennis Amerine, a certified public accountant with over 30 years regulatory experience in the industry in Nevada and who has consulted with the island regulators as they work on their own regulations, signaled some challenges ahead for the Commonwealth Casino Commission in an interview Friday.

"It is more strict in the U.S," Amerine told *Saipan Tribune.*

"In Macau, the junket operators will lease out an entire VIP room. They will bring in individuals that will help finance that junket business and they will sometimes grant their own credit," he said. "Either a junket operator will grant credit to a player or even these other investors will grant credit to the player.

"Those type of things are much different than what we would ever allow in any of the U.S. jurisdictions," Amerine said.

Investigating junket operators

Right now, BSI has a rolling chip program, approved by the commission, that allows players to get a 1.3 percent commission on the amount they roll or turnover, and a .1 percent of that roll for complimentary benefits.

The commission, for its part, has issued applications for junket operators but has not licensed anyone yet.

"We are examining it now," said Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward C. Guerrero. "We have received five applications. Those that I've seen are mostly from here, mostly Korean [applicants]."

Guerrero acknowledged that the commission would face challenges with applicants from China, for example, in their efforts to vet suitability or investigate applications.

"To investigate anyone in Asia is a major challenge for us," Deleon Guerrero said. "To investigate someone from China is even a greater challenge. It's illegal to investigate anybody in China.

If a Chinese were to get credit and skip town, it's uncollectable in China," Guerrero said on the issue of unpaid gaming credits. "Anyone who plays on credit and you don't pay your credit and you run to China, there is no way to collect those. Unlike other jurisdictions [where] you can take them to court…You cannot do that in China because gambling debt is uncollectable."

"It is not a legally enforceable debt," Amerine also said.

"That's probably the big one," Amerine went on to say. "Trying to get information on the junket operators as they come. That's going to be challenging. Trying to make sure that those junket operators are all suitable when they come here."

"It's the ability to do a thorough background investigation on both the players and the junket operators," Deleon Guerrero said.

Another aspect that "complicates" this, Guerrero added, is with regards to U.S. anti-money laundering laws.

"Anti-money laundering in most of Asia is different from what anti-money laundering is envisioned in the U.S.," he said. "From a U.S. perspective it's a pretty rigid, pretty well-defined. But in Asia, I believe, it is pretty less tracked."

Guerrero pointed to reports this month that that thieves were able to move about $81 million from Bangladesh's account in the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, where some of the stolen money was converted into gambling chips, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report this month.

On concerns with casino-related organized crime, Brown said, "No one forgets that we are sitting here in the U.S. That's why we are very respectful to the commission, the chairman, the executive director, and the commissioners, and are working together."

"Letting Best Sunshine do whatever it is that they want to do. That's not true," Brown said.

Brown said the casino never forgets that federal government laws, anti-money laundering laws, and various labor hiring rules in the CNMI.

"We are following every single rule that's out there."

Reports of Macau casinos' heavy involvement with criminal Chinese triad organizations "doesn't exist. Doesn't exist with us," Brown said.

"We know every single individual that's playing in our casino. Whether I give one-person credit and I give him credit and allow him to give some other people. We have everyone's passports, their records, their information, which is different from Macau.

"For us, when people leave Macau," Brown said, "they look for somewhere else to go. Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, to gamble. "Now, they have another option because of this beautiful island" under the U.S., "it's a safe territory, safe games, federally governed by every single law…so people feel very comfortable coming here."

LABOR

From Page 2

Takimoto and Nagata moved the court to issue an order prohibiting HKE from the sale or transfer of its personal property, except in the normal course of business, such as in sale of food items to customers.

Pierce said his clients believe that the better way to proceed is through a freeze on sale/transfer and then hearing as soon as possible on how best the judgment may be paid.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the survivors' request last March 10. Takimoto and Nagata were among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed on a farm in Upper Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006. HKE settled the lawsuits filed by the survivors, including one filed by Takimoto and his family and Nagata.

ARRIVE

From Page 1

"M/V *Luta Mermaid* is a perfect example of local and foreign investor partnership. My administration encourages and supports the local investors, and we should all support these types of investor partnerships. It took sweat, hard work, and sacrifice to realize the M/V *Luta* today," Torres said.

The ship is expected to arrive on Saipan where an open house will be held this morning, after it left Rota last night.

M/V *Luta* arrived on Rota Thursday morning after leaving Panama.

It is a retrofitted passenger and cargo vessel, which originally came from Louisiana, and can accommodate about 20 passengers and can carry up to 28 20-foot containers.

The arrival of MV *Luta* has been pushed back for several months since it was said to set sail last April due to certification requirements and modifications made to the ship.

Japanese businessman Takahisa Yamamoto invested about $1.6 million in the ship in September 2014. It will bring passengers, agricultural goods, and other consumer items to and from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and Guam.

Yamamoto, from Osaka, Japan, owns Luta Mermaid LLC, the main business of which is to operate M/V *Luta*.

BOMB

From Page 1

"The first call came in at about 10:20am. We received calls four times going to the hospital's number," Villagomez said.

"We activated the code, notified the CEO, and its code black and we pretty much, in the incident command, laid out our plan of approach in coordination with DPS," he added.

Code black means there is a bomb threat made to the hospital.

"We also told our staff to remain calm. The staff knows what to do, they're coming down and they have followed the protocols of it, basically," chief executive officer Esther Muna said.

"Once we got the call, we wanted to make sure that the staff are safe, that the patients are safe. We did ask the staff to take a look at, if there's anything suspicious, to take a look at that," she added.

Some of the hospital staff, patients, and family members were asked to go out of the hospital. The gates to the hospital were also guarded and police surrounded the building.

"We had the non-clinical team to go out but we did ask them to go back in just to check again for anything suspicious," Muna said, "We closed the clinic because we don't know when we'll be opening it and we asked the staff to try to reschedule."

"Everything's continuing to operate but at the same time, we're also looking around," she added.

Dogs from the K-9 unit of the Commonwealth Ports Authority swept the area.

"With the assistance of CPA bomb [-sniffing] dogs, we swept the top of the hospital, from south to north, and down to our warehouse," Villagomez said.

"As much as we can say that it's probably a hoax, we wanted to make sure, so I asked that they just go ahead and do the sweep because we are 24 hours," Muna said.

An all-clear was made at the hospital past 2pm when no bomb was found.

Muna said she is disappointed, sad, and angry with the threat made to CHC.

"It's disappointing when you make a threat like this…to play a trick like that, basically we have to do a lockdown," Muna said, "Why would you do that to the health system? It's really unnecessary. Don't play tricks on health because people that really need it will get delayed."

Twin threats

Threats were made to MHS also on Friday, as the hospital incident was being addressed, and again on Saturday afternoon.

On Friday, MHS teachers sent the students to two designated places in the campus as part of the school's standing operating procedures when such threat is received.

Some students said the threat caused minor disruption of classes because at the time they were actually going out of the classrooms for a pep rally.

Police officers scoured the school premises and did not find any bomb.

There was no information as to who received the threat.

On Saturday, students in MHS campus were again disrupted in their activities as another bomb threat was made.

According to a student, they were auditioning for the play "Hairspray" when they were notified of the threat.

Investigations ongoing

Homeland Security and Emergency Management deputy special assistant Gerald Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that detectives are already doing their work trying to trace the calls and that investigations are already in the works.

He added that they will also seek the help of telecommunications company, IT&E, to assist in the matter even if it takes a subpoena to do so.

"This is a serious thing because it's a felony to be making these prank calls and the thing is, you're calling a very critical facility which is the hospital. They should understand that this is the only hospital in the island and you are really, really, impacting the stability of the hospital," Deleon Guerrero said.

"To whoever is doing these prank calls, please think because it's a crime," he added.

Saipan Tribune tried to get information from the Department of Public Safety's information office about the threats at MHS and the Commonwealth Health Center, but DPS did not reply.

These incidents follow a trend that started in Guam during the beginning of the year where multiple bomb threats in different establishments across the island were made for several days.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog released a public statement on Friday after the threats were resolved.

"The Department of Public Safety has taken steps in investigating both incidents and has identified and is looking into persons of interest," their statement said.

"We commend DPS together with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the DFEMS for their diligent response to these situations and for doing their part in ensuring the safety of the community. We also want to remind the general public to be vigilant in cases such as these and to remain calm and if able to, assist authorities in maintaining peace and order the next time emergencies arise," it added.

Members of the Talofa Polynesian Dancers provide entertainment.

HSC ventures into Noni health products

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Huang Shun Corp. has now ventured into the alternative medicine industry. And on Saturday, March 12, launched its latest addition under the POPZ brand, this time tapping the noni fruit for its latest line of health care products.

The long-time CNMI investor, which also has businesses on Tinian, introduced into the market a juice, tea (black and green), and multivitamins that comes in capsules or pills made from the fruit that grows in trees mostly found in tropical shady forests in the Pacific.

The sound of drums kicked off the festivities with the lion dancers from the Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI leading the traditional dance that usually takes place every Lunar New Year but is also held during opening of a business establishment, wedding ceremonies, and other special celebrations.

HSC general manager Huang Yu Ren welcomed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, members of his cabinet—Secretaries James Ada (Public Works) and Marianne Teregeyo (Public Lands), and Special Assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management James Deleon Guerrero—Saipan Mayor David Apatang and his counterpart in Tinian Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission commissioner Jose Kiyoshi, and ordinary members of the community in the event that was highlighted by a five-minute long fireworks display.

The Talofa Polynesian Dancers headed by Leo Passi and students from the Saipan Music and Dance Studio—Demalyn Sablan Pagarao, Bernice Shane Sabino, and Bonnie Gio Sagana—provided live entertainment. The Kagman Enforcers, competing in the Juniors division of the Saipan Little League, is a team sponsored by HSC.

"The company's development and expansion of enterprises would not have been possible without the strong support of the public. We, I and all of our employees, thank you again for your strong support and show of confidence with HSC," said Huang, who arrived on Saipan in 1997, in his opening remarks.

Huang added that their company has a reputation to maintain when it comes to providing quality products and services. They created the brand name POPZ that they used on the labels of the Tinian chili sauce that they are selling, which gained further fame after it was featured in the wildly popular Chinese reality television show "Running Man" when their production crew filmed an episode on Saipan last year.

Huang said that various experts from the U.S., Australia, and China were consulted in developing their non-based products. The said specialists helped and guided them in creating their line of high-quality health care products.

Tinian Mayor San Nicolas thanked HSC's continued confidence with their investments in Tinian and on Saipan.

"Tinian and HSC became partners more than 10 years ago. They helped in exporting the Tinian hot pepper and now they are moving to noni-based products. The new line of products just shows of their continued commitment in investing in our islands," said San Nicolas.

Huang assured that HSC is going to apply the same character, knowledge, heart, and wisdom that they used when they first ventured into the food manufacturing business when it comes to their noni-based health products.

HSC has been doing business in the CNMI since 2002, starting its investments in Tinian before deciding to enter the Saipan market in 2012. A supermarket, restaurant, beauty shop, bar, farm, laundormat, and a poker arcade are some of the businesses that they opened in Tinian.

HSC diversified and have been involved in the manufacturing, distribution, and exporting of the famous Tinian hot pepper—considered to be one of the world's hottest— in China and the United States.

The super-hot chili paste-like sauce, likewise known as Donne Sali, has not only become a staple condiment in local homes in the CNMI and Guam but also a favorite gift item by tourists from Japan and Korea.

They also own and operate the Green Field Lion House in Tinian, Oriental and Sunshine Garden restaurants, Sunshine Garden Hotel, Saipan Local Specialty in Garapan, and U Save Supermarket.

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI perform the traditional lion dance.

Huang Shung Corp. general manager Huang Yu Ren, center, after the performance of the lion dancers.

Huang Yu Ren gives his opening remarks.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, shares a light moment with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, center, and lawyer Robert Torres.

Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas gives his remarks and applauds HSC.

Huang Shung Corp. general manager Huang Yu Ren, center, and members of the Talofa Polynesian Dancers.

Members of the Junior Little League team Kagman Enforcers join Huang Shung Corp. general manager Huang Yu Ren, seventh left, on stage. Huang Shun Corp. is the Enforcers' team sponsor.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TO ACCOMMODATE BSI, OTHER DEVELOPERS

DPW looking at reworking Garapan roads

The Department of Public Works has commissioned designs to decongest the traffic flow in the busy Garapan district as two large commercial developments begin to rise in the area.

Tony Camacho, director of technical services division under the Departmetnt of Public Works, said they are looking to "opening" the Coral Tree Avenue area, and have a directional system heading north in front of Fiesta Resort & Spa.

"Hopefully, [Best Sunshine International, Ltd.] will be willing to pay for that upgrade," he said in an interview, referring to improvements to Coral Tree Avenue.

On expanding roads, he said, there may be some limitations with right of way availability. "So we are looking to increase traffic flow by doing one-way streets."

Camacho said they are waiting for BSI's traffic impact analysis for DPW to review.

Permitting agencies are looking to see if BSI can submit this analysis "sooner rather than later," he said.

"We'll do that review from there," he added.

One-way streets in Garapan are planned, he said, but probably not on the main thoroughfare, or Route 30. And the main road would remain a "two-way" street, Camacho said.

"We do have a design in place right now being commissioned. Hopefully that design can lead us to make better improvements to opening up traffic.

DPW plans directional signs, improvements to pavement, and also public outreach on how that new one-way systems would work.

"It would be great if the investor put up that money but we are looking at maybe $200,000 to put directional signs and improve the shoulder ways," Camacho said. "Any kind of improvement to increase traffic flow would be great."

Camacho said they are aiming to get traffic out in front of the T-Galleria out faster.

He said they might have to "tweak" the light system to move traffic faster, meaning, speed up the pace of the traffic lights.

In Garapan, Imperial Pacific's Grand Marianas Casino and Hotel resort, an integrated resort with hotel rooms, casino gaming, night clubs, restaurants, conference rooms and retails stores, is slated to have "no" traffic impacts, according to a developer chart provided by BECQ this month.

Also in Garapan, H.S. Lee Construction's commercial building, an integrated commercial building and hotel rooms with gift shops and restaurants, is marked "traffic density will increase," per the BECQ chart.

"[DPW] certainly have plans and things like that but they need to get moving on their designs," said Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan). "We are already behind."

"We also have to realize that [these efforts] come with resources and we have to allocate the necessary resources for them to do that. They don't have enough engineers to realize that and given the professional people that they need, their engineers are to me overworked."

Palacios also has concerns about agencies vetting building code designs.

"I want to make sure the designs are proper and the plans are put in place. At some point in time, the regulatory agencies will also have to say enough is enough in the Garapan area, and we need the development out in the other areas.

"Garapan is very attractive for beachfront properties," he said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Every year you grow older, we grow prouder of such an awesome son. This is your special day and we hope you enjoy it to the fullest! Happy birthday Enrico! We love you!

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Building area (if with existing building)
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Saipan Alliance is newest Lions Club

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Alliance Lions Club is the newest member of District 204, Region 2 of the Lions Clubs International. SALC is waiting for its charter number and has already set its charter night on June 4.

Lions Club membership is only by invitation and 22 individuals have accepted the invite to form SALC, according to Centennial Club organizer Ladyvir Canape.

Dannie Robles was elected as the first SALC president with Al Cabael and Jun Alcizo III voted as the secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Most of the SALC's 22 members attended an orientation night held at Dulili in Garapan last March 12, a Saturday.

Past district governor Goring Duenas, PDG Romy Angel, and first vice district governor-elect Arturo Navarro were the orientation night speakers.

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club is sponsoring the SALC with Flor Miranda and Lolit Velasco as the guiding Lions.

The Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club, and the Rota Marianas Lions Club are also part of District 204, Region 2 of the Lions Clubs International.

District 204, Region 2 has recently organized a Health Fair and has also repaired and repainted several bus stops last month.

For more information on SALC, call Robles at 287-5374, Cabael at 483-4663, or Canape at 989-2545.

Saipan Tribune
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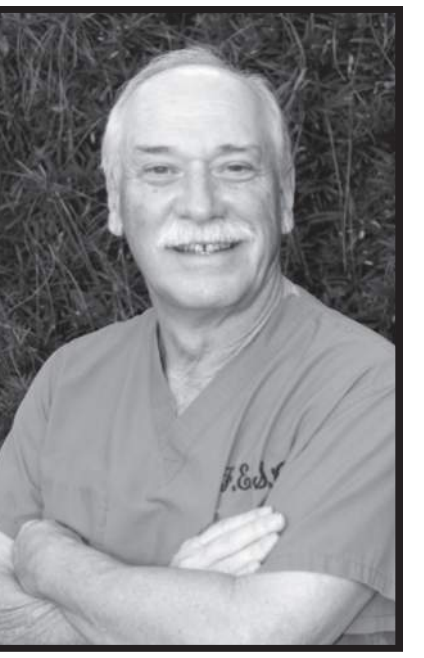

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Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
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Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

IN HOME INVASION CASE AT LAWYER'S APARTMENT

Drug addict burglar gets 78-month prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has slapped a prison term of six years and six month against John Chandler Hamilton, a confessed drug addict accused of attacking a doctor and a lawyer with a screwdriver when they tried to stop him from escaping after he burglarized the lawyer's apartment in Garapan.

Wiseman said no parole shall be allowed until the 28-year-old Hamilton has served five years in prison.

Hamilton was given credit of 10 months and 26 days for time served. It means that he will be released from the Department of Corrections on Oct. 21, 2021.

Wiseman said he finds the crime committed here egregious and that the court must promote respect for the law.

"The crime of burglary continues to have a negative and chilling effect for people of the CNMI," the judge pointed out.

Wiseman said Melody, the wife of attorney Matthew Holley, continues to be afraid in her own home and she refuses to go home alone and would have her husband inspect the premises before they enter their home.

Wiseman said the couple's 4-year-old son continues to talk about "the bad man" that was in their home.

The judge said the Holleys had to move to a new place so that Melody will feel more comfortable and safe.

Wiseman noted as mitigating factors that Hamilton is a family man in his mid-20s and has no significant criminal history other than an incomplete juvenile delinquency record.

Wiseman said family members are supportive of Hamilton and willing to assist in his rehabilitation.

The judge also noted Hamilton's sincere remorse and regrets for his action.

After completing the prison term, Hamilton will be placed on probation. He was required to write apology letters to the victims.

During the duration of probation, the defendant is prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with the victims.

Hamilton shall submit to an evaluation by the Community Guidance Center or an alternate program recommended by the Office of Adult Probation, focusing on drug addiction. He was required to complete whatever recommended treatment.

Hamilton was ordered to pay a $500 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, counsel for the government, recommended a sentence of eight years in prison to prevent Hamilton from committing future crimes and prevent others from committing similar crimes, "which will improve public safety by incapacitating violent offenders."

"The community must be protected from criminals like defendant who have complete disregard for the safety of others and poses a serious threat to the community," Barcinas said.

The prosecutor said while the government sympathizes that Hamilton has two children and wants to be involved in their lives, the mother of his children says otherwise and claims that the defendant was physically abusive toward her and provided little help with caring for their children.

Barcinas asked the court to consider that there was a 3-year-old in the house Hamilton burglarized who could have been harmed.

Barcinas said Hamilton could have caused serious harm to the boy's father, attorney Holley, who went tumbling down a flight of concrete stairs and was assaulted by the defendant with a screwdriver.

Holley sustained scrapes and bruises on his stomach, right shoulder, both knees, and hands, and pain on the left rib area.

Barcinas said Hamilton admitted to smoking methamphetamine or "ice" every day before the incident.

"Defendant made his choice in life and chose drugs and violence, and therefore, must be punished and face the consequences.

Attorney Daniel T. Guidotti, counsel for Hamilton, recommended a sentence of five years imprisonment.

Guidotti said Hamilton does not have a significant criminal history and acknowledged the severity of the offense by entering into a plea agreement with a minimum sentence of five years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Guidotti said Hamilton's struggles with attorney Holley and Dr. Marty Rohringer were motivated by defendant's desire to escape, and not by any desire to injure Holley and Rohringer.

The defense counsel said Hamilton is a good candidate for rehabilitation because he is not a career offender and because his actions were motivated by drug use.

The Office of Adult Probation recommended a seven-year prison sentence, while the victims in their impact statement recommended eight years to serve in prison.

Hamilton signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to one count of burglary.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Hamilton with burglary, theft, assault, assault and battery, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

For pleading guilty to burglary, the government agreed to move to dismiss the remaining charges. The court granted the motion.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on April 9, 2015 on Saipan, Hamilton, who was armed with a screwdriver, unlawfully entered the apartment unit of the Holley couple in Garapan at 9:47pm, with the purpose of committing theft.

Rohringer suffered a cut on the left middle knuckle when he, attorney Holley, and a friend were attacked by Hamilton with a screwdriver when they tried to stop him from escaping after burglarizing the lawyer's apartment.

5 students join CDA-NMC Business Plan Competition

Five students from Northern Mariana College competed for the 2016 NMC Business Plan Competition as part of the month-long celebration of the Commonwealth Development Authority's 30th anniversary.

The students presented their business plan before the judges at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Friday.

Among those who presented was Reyel Mar Clata Quezon who proposed "Mannge Finadene." According to Quezon, Mannge Finadene is a business with the aim of promoting culture and tradition by creating and making available a new dipping sauce from the Marianas.

Another business was "The Taste Restaurant and Catering" which was presented by Marie Luise Del Carmen, aiming to offer local dishes and a variety of other cuisines from around the world. Del Carmen said one thing that would make The Taste different is that they will implement the "pay a meal" concept, wherein customers can pay a meal forward for anyone that could not afford it.

Student Simon Jed Necesito proposed a Saipan-based textbook rental company that offers students an option to rent textbooks at an affordable price called "SS Books" and aims to provide an alternative for education in the CNMI as well the rest of Micronesia.

Alexandra C. Villagomez presented her business plan for "Kinse Minutos Oil Change and Service" which will provide some auto services and preventive maintenance including oil change in 15 minutes.

According to NMC Business Development chair Chavel Green, they chose the Top 5 students from the business plans submitted by the students as their final exit project for their business class.

To make sure that plans are feasible in the CNMI, the students conduct surveys first.

"They have to do surveys and based on surveys, we give them the green light to go ahead with the business plan," Green said.

NMC acting president David Attao who also attended the event was impressed by the students, adding that these activities stimulate ideas for locals to create their own businesses.

"The students are still pursuing their baccalaureate degrees and yet they have very visionary minds and actually put their ideas based on real situations in the CNMI," Attao said, "There are thousands of foreign-based businesses here and there are very limited U.S-origin or CNMI-based businesses."

"We are very thankful for CDA for the partnership," he added.

According to CDA executive director Manny Sablan, they want to hold the competition on an annual basis, that's why they have the perpetual trophy where the name of the student and their proposed company will be engraved.

There will also be a $1,000 scholarship given to the winner.

"We would like to continue to focus on training our youth in business development," Sablan said.

The winner of the competition will be announced during CDA's anniversary luncheon on March 31. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

■ MVA-RFP-16-2334 CHINA
■ MVA-RFP-16-2335 KOREA/TAIWAN & RUSSIA
■ MVA-RFP-16-2336 JAPAN

For: Representation, Promotion and Public Relations Services for the ■ China Market, and/or the ■ Korea/Taiwan & Russia Market and/or the ■ Japan Market. Proposers may choose to respond to one, two or all three proposal territories.

Opening Date: February 17, 2016 Time: 8:00 a.m.
Closing Date: April 15, 2016 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950
USA

The Marianas Visitors Authority ("MVA") seeks to hire a contractor or contractors to provide marketing, internet, and public relations services to the MVA and assist the MVA with its mandate to promote tourism to the Northern Mariana Islands from the ■ Japanese market, the ■ Chinese market and the ■ Korea/Taiwan & Russia markets. These 3 contracts will each be for an initial two-year period, commencing on October 1, 2016, with an option to renew for one (1) additional two (2) year period and one (1) additional one (1) year period (up to 5 total years).

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by emailing the **MVA** at jtorres@mymarianas.com or by fax to 1-670-664-3237. RFP is available at www.mymarianas.com.

Gratuities, kickbacks, and contingent fees are prohibited by the laws of the Northern Mariana Islands. NMIAC §§ 90-20-120, 90-20-125.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson
MVA Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/CGC-002

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: April1, 2016 TIME: 10:00 AM

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CGC PREVENTION SERVICE UNIT

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE, LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER. CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVY HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
CHCC, DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/H.O.M.E-001

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: April 1, 2016 TIME: 3:00 PM

OFFICE FURNITURE FOR HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR MATERNAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD (H.O.M.E.) VISITING PROGRAM

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE, LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER. CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVY HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ STANLEY T. IAKOPO
CHCC, DIRECTOR OF P&S

Bridge Investment Group supports local talents

SAN JOSE, Tinian—Tinian High School is proud to announce its addition of a music club, "A Natural High," composed of young and talented artists led by advisor Bruce Castro Blanton.

The Bridge Investment Group, LLC was honored to present a donation of $300 to help defray travel expenses for the band's anticipated trip to Saipan in April. They plan to perform at the upcoming annual flame tree arts festival.

"It is a big challenge to perform in front of a huge crowd but because they're all going off to college soon, this upcoming experience is aiming to build their confidence. We are grateful for the contribution that Bridge has made and for being our biggest supporter," said Blanton.

A few goals set for the THS Music Club are to produce albums and possibly profit from them in the near future, which will stimulate a revolving fund for the club. The guitar player of the band stated, "This has been the best experience of my life."

It is a great feeling knowing positive changes are being made in the lives of our youths. The Bridge Investment Group will continue its commitment to the Tinian community. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Bridge Investment Group, LLC administration staff Melanie Cruz, Tinian High School PTSA president Arley Long, BIG security chief Ray Pangelinan, advisor Bruce Castro Blanton, and THS Music Club members.

Navy to conduct training at W-517

ASAN, Guam—The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- March 21-22 from 8am to 6:30pm
- March 23-24 from 8am to 11:55pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators— are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Temporary water service interruption at Tottotville

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the Tottotville Housing Development in Koblerville continues to experience temporary water service interruption due to possible leaks in the area.

Water Operations personnel are currently addressing the issue by conducting leak detection services throughout the area. Customers in the affected area are scheduled to receive water service from 9am to 10am daily until repairs are completed. CUC anticipates to have the problem resolved early this week and will restore water services thereafter.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune
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RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind it's RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before Monday, March 21, 2016. Payments not received by close of business on March 21 will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before Monday, March 21, 2016. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by Monday, March 21. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.

IT&E Life In Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

PAY BY PHONE: 682-4ITE (4483)

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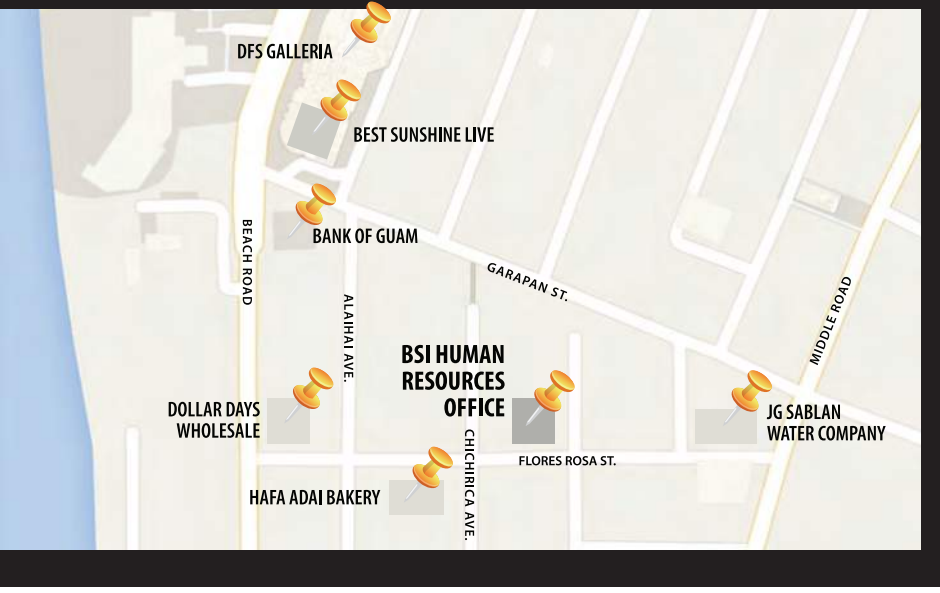

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 56
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

Germanwings crash an example of when medical privacy and safety collide

Just two weeks before he nosedived a passenger jet into the French Alps, Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz was told by a doctor to seek treatment at a psychiatric clinic. That was just one of several doctors Lubitz consulted about vision troubles and sleeplessness in the months leading up to the crash, which killed all 150 aboard.

Astonishingly, none of that stopped Lubitz from taking the helm on March 24, 2015. Why? Because none of those doctors told authorities, or Germanwings officials, of concerns about Lubitz's fitness for duty, according to a recently released final report on the crash of Flight 9525 by France's BEA air accident investigation agency. The report suggests that strict German medical privacy laws kept doctors from alerting authorities and helped Lubitz keep his condition under wraps.

Lead investigator Arnaud Desjardin blamed a "lack of clear guidelines in German regulations on when a threat to public safety outweighs patient privacy." He called for "clearer rules … to preserve public safety." In other words, doctors should recalibrate the balance between their ethical duty to maintain patient confidentiality and the risk to the public posed by an impaired employee.

Clearer rules would help doctors and employers navigate this tricky terrain. But physicians, agencies and companies also should bolster incentives for troubled employees to come forward.

Railroad engineers, bus drivers, nuclear power plant supervisors and pilots undergo rigorous mental and physical examinations. When there is a question of an employee's incapacity, one of the basic safety assumptions in these industries is that employees will self-declare their unfitness for duty.

We don't know how often that happens — or doesn't. We do know that such reporting relies on employees being mentally competent enough to know that they have a problem. Employees may not be aware that they're unfit for duty, particularly if they suffer a severe psychotic episode. Denial, too, is powerful.

In Lubitz's case, for instance, the report says that he may have avoided self-reporting to airline officials because he feared losing his livelihood and status. It is also possible he was already suffering a disconnect with reality and did not believe his condition affected his ability to fly.

How to encourage people in sensitive jobs to take a different course?

Employers can create powerful incentives so that workers will voluntarily notify them about a range of health issues that can affect performance. Those include cardiac and vision problems and, critically, mental illnesses.

Employers can encourage self-reporting by assuring those who do that they'll receive high-quality medical care

See GERMANWINGS on Next Page

Solar Hijri

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The high symbol of this season of Lent is the commemoration of the "Triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem" on a donkey, a sandaled carpenter of the House of David riding. Loud Hosanna is the order of the day, more so as the leaders of the Synagogue expected a rebel to liberate them from the clutches of Rome.

It was a bitter disappointment that the elder rebel from Galilee (life expectancy then averaged 34) hung at 33 on a cross on Friday. Whether the accounts of the Gospels were accurate (there were many literary accounts, 56 gospels was the academic count when I was at Seminary), authoritative by Church Councils' decisions in the fourth century, the religious drama was well crafted and impressive in scope, from the waving of the palm leaves to the empty tomb, and later, the ascension into heaven.

This is first day of the year in the Solar Hijri, aka Shamal Hijri, the calendar of Iran and Afghanistan and the Islamic world that always begins with the vernal equinox. Pope Gregory decided that the birth of the Infant Jesus started the Christian calendar, which dominated Europe. Imperials sailed across the Mediterranean to the open seas in search of spice and colonized the world, but now we ask for relevance as the seasons of the northern hemisphere was imposed on the rest of the planet including the tropics.

We snicker at Aussies starting their summer in December, dreaming of physiological White Christmas; when snow falls in Tazmania, it happens in July, and the white fluff in Kiwi's Dunedin is so rare that it gets memorialized when it happens. Nevertheless, the Aussies' calendar is just as valid as the commercial one imposed on the tropics; we recognize the European four seasons though the only cold that 99 percent of the population encounter are at the corner grocery store freezers where the meat and seafood are stored, and the refrigeration that keeps the beer cold.

I have a global map on my wall that looks at the world from the 23rd degree latitude N, a perspective common to those who use the Mercator North Pole projection dominating the West until the '70s when the Africans pointed out that the map made the USSR, when it was still intact, look bigger than the African continent. Area land mass was accounted for by the Peter's projection but then, it also developed other distortions.

A good check on any map is whether Ecuador in South America is at the middle section of the map; if it is about two-thirds south, the map focused on the northern hemisphere like the old Mercator projection.

This is where perspective influenced behavior. The European racial superiority stems from the Aryans (Iranians) who came into Europe from the Caucasus that became the royals, and those who headed for India to became the Brahmin of the Asian Caste System.

The movie star Meryl Streep not too long ago got in trouble for saying that DNA-wise, we emerged from Africa, the variable being only 3 percent and mostly on the melanin that determines the color of the skin to adopt to the solar impact on any group headed in any given direction. The skin part is scientifically contested, but the DNA make-up is now standard Science: all of us came from Africa!

It is from the vernal equinox that Christians peg their Easter. The season of Lent since Augustine shivered with guilt over his wayward youth, created a lasting explanation of why that was the case. We are born defective by virtue of "original sin" infected by the transgressions of original parents in the Garden of Eden. We all needed to be restored from this victim's story through the salvific act of the man on the cross, and that's why we call Friday Good.

That is now enshrined in the Gregorian calendar. But without the dark perspective of the Monastics, the Solar Hijri celebrates 13 days of revelry before the stellar constellations in the West (Aries to Pisces). Animals inhabit the Zodiac in the East (the Monkey prances this year).

We will stick with the predominant Christian symbol system of the islands. Traditions who followed the Solar Hijri hold this day as a holiday but China in the later part of the Qing dynasty succumbed to the influence of the British and their allies that followed the Gregorian calendar. The influence of the Prophets Hijra in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Indochina come to mind but they followed their colonizer's calendar. India, too. The Philippines? We make the sign of the cross. I kneejerk on that tradition, though I now journey on earthrise consciousness.

The medieval monastics fasted on Lent, downing their brew for the cellulose. At SMU's School of Theology, we asked if Jesus at the Last Supper poured wine or just grape juice. Duh! Middle East folks get carbohydrates fermented or brewed, but the Temperance movement forbade wine in America, so ending this telling, I grabbed a San Mig but when I got to my third, it was time for a nap.

In the real solar calendar, today is the first day of your life. Live. Or, in my case, nap!

Google, Oscars, and politics dominate the stage

MARIANAS MATTERS

By MUFI HANNEMANN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mufi Hannemann is a Harvard-educated former mayor of Honolulu. He is the principal of MFH Enterprises and is the chair and founder of the Pacific Century Fellows program.

From an island perspective, it was great to see that Google Translate has added the Hawaiian and Samoan languages as part of their "machine learning-based translations," making it possible for 120 million people to communicate this way. Google, however, is quick to admit that they will still need the assistance of the public to verify the accuracy of the translations because the machine-learning process will not be able to cover the breadth of a language. Active participation of linguistic experts is how languages like Scots Gaelic, Frisian, Shona, and six others were able to join Samoan and Hawaiian as the latest additions to the Google Translate family. Think about it: a similar conscientious effort could lead to the Chamorro and Carolinian languages making the list.

I was happy to see NBA basketball star and Harvard alum Jeremy Lin was the first one out of the gate to voice his objections to the stereotypical depiction of Asians during the recent Oscar telecast. While complimenting comic actor Chris Rock on his overall emcee performance, Lin didn't cut Rock or the Motion Picture Academy any slack on this feeble attempt at humor. Considering the Academy was roundly criticized for the lack of racial diversity in several of the leading award categories, you'd have thought that they'd show a little more sensitivity on racial issues. What were they thinking or were they thinking at all? The Academy finally came around to apologize for its insensitive actions upon receiving a letter of protest that was filed by some Asian cinema stars. I suppose better late than never and let's hope this type of insensitivity doesn't rear its ugly head again.

And while we're on the subject of "not getting it," President Obama has announced his nomination of U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Merrick Garland to fill Justice Antonin Scalia's vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Senate Republicans are digging in their heels, holding to their vow not to consider any nomination put forth by the President. At a time when anti-Washington candidates like Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders are showing surprising popularity because of their dismissal of the divisive partisanship that has paralyzed Congress for so long, it's surprising that the Republicans are demonstrating the very intransigence that is frustrating and angering so many Americans.

The Senate has an obligation to consider the nomination of Judge Garland. Senate Democrats gave nominee Robert Bork a public hearing and rejected the nomination. If the Republicans have objections to the qualifications of Mr. Merrick, they should say so publically and then exercise their prerogative to vote against his confirmation. But refusing to even give the man a fair hearing is undemocratic and runs counter to the principles of open government.

Which brings me to the campaign for President. If someone had told you a year ago that Hillary Clinton would be tested big time by a little-known U.S. Senator from Vermont or that a wealthy, controversial New York businessman would be the frontrunner in the GOP race for President, besting current and former Governors and Senators along the way, you would have said in your best Big Apple imitation, "Get outta here!"

No question Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump have defied the odds and have now become household names in the world of American politics. So whether you support them or not, they have taken advantage of the frustration and anger that many Americans on the left, right, and middle are feeling and articulated in such a way that translates into votes—not an easy thing to do. Pundits are still predicting that at the end of the day, and especially with the latest March 15 primary results, Clinton will prevail as the Democratic nominee, provided that her email controversies/FBI investigation are settled sooner rather than later. As for Trump, the establishment and others will continue to intensify their efforts to deny him the nomination so fireworks will fill the air non-stop. But he does have an amazing following from Hawaii and the CNMI to Florida, Illinois, and Massachusetts. It seems that the more you attack him, the more it fires up those who are swayed by his persona and message.

For us in the Pacific region, Clinton, the former Secretary of State, is the only one who has traveled, visited, and spoken extensively throughout Oceania. I would love to see a question or comments about the Pacific region surface during the debates, especially as we head to a general election runoff when more people are going to be paying attention, other than from a defense-related standpoint with North Korea and China the subjects or trade-related focusing on Japan or China. Stay tuned for more fireworks , entertainment, drama, and even some education—the Presidential election season has just begun!

GERMANWINGS

From Page 10

and follow-up. That they won't be summarily fired or demoted if they seek treatment for severe depression, acute psychosis, post-traumatic stress disorder, or drug or alcohol dependency. And, crucially, that their privacy will be protected.

Employers can create employee assistance programs and support groups. They can also allow people to take alternative jobs with the assurance that they won't do irreparable damage to their careers. Impaired pilots who are transferred to become classroom instructors, for example, can still support their families, and perhaps return to flying when a problem is under control.

It's not hard to see how similar policies could help those in other professions — think chemicals, nuclear energy or Amtrak — where impaired employees could pose a risk to company or public safety.

Encouraging employees to self-report medical problems, particularly mental health issues, will never be a foolproof approach. Mental health treatment still carries a stigma. But companies can help their employees, and help erase the stigma of mental illness, through policies that encourage treatment, not concealment. The greater the incentive for treatment, the safer Americans will be.

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Can Donald Trump really save America?

By BEN BOYCHUK
The Sacramento Bee

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute's City Journal*.*
Contact him at bboychuk@city-journal.org

Let's assume Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee for president. Perish the thought? Most pundits and political prognosticators have tended to focus on the worst-case scenarios surrounding a Trump nomination. I certainly have.

We try to comfort ourselves with increasingly outlandish scenarios for stopping the real estate magnate's hostile takeover of the GOP. No, it is not a foregone conclusion. Not yet. Trump is still well shy of the 1,237 delegates he needs to secure the nomination on the first ballot at the Republican convention in Cleveland this summer.

After Tuesday, the field has narrowed further and Ted Cruz, the freshman U.S. senator from Texas, is emerging as The Last Best Conservative Hope to trounce Trump. If Cruz can keep picking up delegates and maybe eke out a few winner-take-all victories, then maybe … just maybe …

Besides — good heavens! Don't people see by now? Trump is a fraud. He's all bluster. He is a man of low character and utterly untrustworthy. He's far too quick to praise authoritarians such as Russia's Vladimir Putin and much too comfortable with "knocking the crap" out of the demonstrators who show up at his rallies.

Oh, and he isn't really a conservative.

Stipulated. All stipulated. So what?

So what if instead of pondering the imponderables and "looking into the abyss" — as former George W. Bush speechwriter Michael Gerson put it in the Washington Post the other day — suppose we ask the question: What's the best that could happen?

What if Trump doesn't just win the nomination? What if he wins the whole stinkin' thing? What if the republic doesn't collapse one minute after he takes the oath of office?

It's possible that this demagogue might just be the catalyst for a bona fide restoration of constitutional government.

If you listen closely to what Trump says, you won't hear him say very much explicitly about the Constitution or freedom. Those words seem to be beyond his ken. But you will hear him talk about President Barack Obama's misuse and abuse of executive power.

Every president since Herbert Hoover has pushed the constitutional boundaries of his office. Fact is, presidents do have vast powers under Article II of the Constitution, especially when it comes to waging war and protecting national security. But "vast" isn't the same as "unlimited." Too many presidents — Republican and Democrat — have stretched the interpretation of their powers to the limit, and sometimes beyond.

In that sense, Obama is no different from previous occupants of the Oval Office. But in crucial ways, Obama has used and abused his executive authority in ways his predecessors could only fantasize about, from delaying implementation of parts of the Affordable Care Act to exempting millions of undocumented immigrants from deportation.

Trump hasn't said he would forego the use of executive orders — no candidate in his right mind would say that. But he has said he would use executive orders to undo the excesses of his predecessor.

"One of the beautiful things about executive orders from my standpoint is, if I get elected, many of those executive orders that he signed, the first day, they're going to be unsigned," Trump told NBC's Chuck Todd in January.

Trump has also said that using "the art of the deal" to persuade Congress to pass legislation is far better than unilateral action. With his typical hyperbole, Trump has promised that his use of executive orders will be "better than anything that's ever come before" — or, at least, more legitimate than the way Obama has used and abused them.

But would Trump keep his word? Knowing all that we know about the man's business dealings and given his penchant for shamelessly reversing himself if expedience demands it, giving him the benefit of the doubt seems like the height of hubris.

That's OK. In all likelihood, any Congress — Republican or Democrat — would go out of its way to keep a President Trump in line. Just imagine! After decades of over-delegating power to the executive branch and allowing the bureaucracy to run rampant, Congress may finally reassert its constitutional prerogatives.

That's almost reason enough to vote for Trump.

Almost. Personally, I would not vote for Trump under any circumstances.

But I wouldn't hold it against anyone who does vote for him. After more than two decades of choosing the lesser of two evils, it was only a matter of time before a critical mass of voters opted for the greater one.

Could a scoundrel like Trump end up saving the country after all?

The answer, of course, is no. Good heavens, no! Don't be ridiculous.

It's a trick question. If nothing else comes of this bizarre election year, perhaps Americans finally will begin to sober up at last and realize that no one man — or woman — is going to save us. We're not electing a king or a queen. The people are the sovereign. And as terrifying as the prospect of a Trump presidency may seem, in the end, the people still rule.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CNMI, Guam are exempt from the H1B Cap

On page 20 of the March 18, 2016, *Saipan Tribune*, I read an article, "USCIS will accept the H-1B petitions for FY' 17 beginning April 1." Please be informed that the information contained in that article does not apply in the CNMI and Guam; we are exempt from the H1B cap, at least until Dec. 31, 2019 (see Public Law 110-229)

I just filed an H1B in January and it was approved. The employee will be coming this month.

Bottom line, don't wait until April 1 to file your H-1B petition. You can do it when you need an employee who meets the H-1B requirements—at least until Dec. 31 , 2019.

Shirley Dotts
SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Thank you Saipan Mayor's Office

My deepest appreciation to the hard work of the Saipan Mayors Office. Last week, the storm debris that was piled up on our front yard was finally cleared out. To Miss Joann Aquino, Mr. Richard Atalig, and his crew, and most especially to Mayor Apatang, thank you so much for your big help.

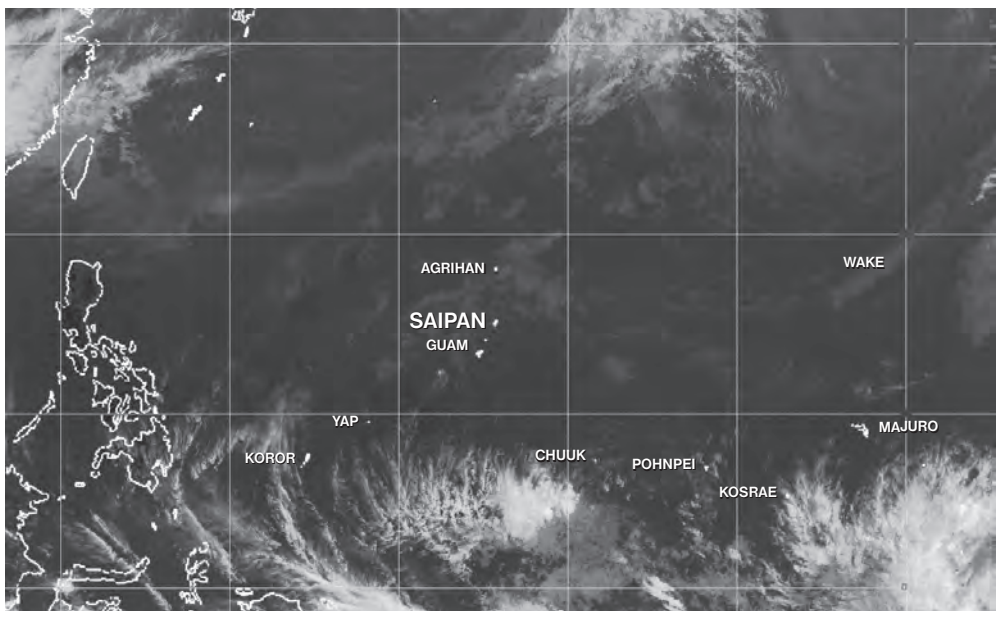
Grace Brooks
San Roque

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:55 PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from northeast of Wake Island through 25N177E to southwest of the island at 17N166E then continues westward as a shear line ending near Anatahan at 16N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 160 miles northwest of the front. Patchy clouds and light showers are seen along and up to 160 miles north of the shear line. Converging south winds east of the front are creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 90 miles of a line from 15N174E to 25N178E. Another cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Iwo To island through 25N145E to beyond 130E at 22N. Cloudiness and rain are occurring along and up to 180 miles north of this feature. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest and south of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 2N144E to 4N150E to 1N155E. Similar conditions are also present southeast of Kosrae and south of Majuro south of a line from 2N164E to 4N166E to 5N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲77	▼67
Beijing	Showers	▲68	▼62
Hong Kong	Showers	▲68	▼62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼55
Manila	Sunny	▲94	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼50
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼63
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼35
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼37
Paris	Cloudy	▲50	▼39
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Salem	Rain	▲59	▼45
San Francisco	Showers	▲63	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲59	▼33
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲42	▼35

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:40 AM	4:43 PM
Saturday	5:20 AM	5:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	7:06 PM
Tuesday	7:16 AM	7:53 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

PSS launches biggest anti-meth education campaign

TINIAN—The Public School System has launched here Thursday an education campaign that will combat the spread of illegal drugs by drawing together all of its stakeholders to what could be the biggest drive against all forms of addiction in the Commonwealth.

Public elementary and secondary school students and the school district's personnel and staff are now advocates of the CNMI-wide massive anti-meth education campaign. The Public School System has partnered with the nonprofit group Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc., whose anti-addiction counselors and experts will partner with Tinian, Rota, and Saipan public schools for this education campaign.

Joined by their school leadership, close to 200 seventh through 12th grade students of Tinian Junior/Senior High School students participated in the campaign yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former lawyer a Joey Arriola is now an anti-addiction advocate. He is a member of the nonprofit group Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc. Thursday, the anti-meth education campaign will launched at the Tinian Elementary School and will be in the coming days to all public elementary and secondary schools on Rota and Saipan.

The nonprofit group, also called as Friends of Recovery, sent a three-man counselors team here and spoke about the challenges and impact of illegal drugs, such as methamphetamine, marijuana and other illicit substance, and alcoholism. They were comprised of Joey Arriola, Crispin M. Sablan, and Diego M. Sablan.

"This is going to be a huge project for PSS as we continue to promote a drug-free public education environment and at the same time help our community rid of crystal methamphetamine," Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said in a separate statement.

In speaking directly to TJSHS students, associate commissioner for Instructional Services Jackie Quitugua urged the need to communicate.

"It really matters to talk to your parents…and when you do that, be open and be honest," Quitugua said. "On PSS part, we can do this together."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The school district sent its leadership, spearheaded by associate commissioner for Instructional Services Jackie A. Quitugua, and all of the various program managers to Tinian Thursday in support of the anti-meth education launching. In this photo they are joined by TJSHS leadership and advocates from the Marianas Behavioral Health International, Inc.

How it all began

PSS has recognized the growing proliferation of ice and other illicit drugs—and this was further amplified when a Tinian Elementary School pupil, Byron Dela Cruz, 13, used Facebook to denounce the illegal drug problem.

Thursday, he joined TJSHS students and school leaders, the district leadership and the Friends of Recovery on the launching.

"I came out on Facebook last year and wrote that there is a drug problem here on Tinian," Dela Cruz said in an interview. "(It) is really bad that it is now the most addictive and is spreading out all over our islands."

"I am scared that it is affecting all our families here," he added.

Dela Cruz acknowledged how PSS has put together an unprecedented response/campaign.

"I am amazed that PSS is actually responding to my appeal. Yes, I am ready to be an advocate and I am ready to be in the forefront and spread this drive with my peers," Dela Cruz added.

Arriola, a former lawyer, was one of the three speakers. He opened up at how his addiction ruined everything he had. Today, he is a much better person and an advocate.

"When I was young I was smoking cigarettes, drinking, using marijuana. To hide it, I always had good grades," Arriola intimated. "I thought I had enough."

"But I continued doing it because 'I am the man,'" he said. "Then I want to impress my parents without letting them know what I was doing. I had my master's degree, my law degree. But I was doing drugs… because 'I am the man.'"

He went on to become one high-paying and sought-after private litigator in the CNMI. "I started to feel not just the man but invincible. My law practice was amazing; I was making money…a lot of money."

And one day, he revealed, "someone said to me, 'Joey there is really a nice drug called methamphetamine or 'ice' and you've got to try this. This will relax you,'"

It happened so fast. He lost everything after that.

"Because I really thought I was the man," he admitted.

His embrace of his past mistakes has won him the support of the Public School System and the community. He is now a partner of the biggest anti-drug campaign that the district has ever launched.

He strongly advocated that the community must support PSS fight against the spread of illegal drugs.

"I pray and hope that I made an impact to all of you. This is not a joke. Make a choice. God bless you all," Arriola said.

The PSS Meth Project is not only limited to the spread of crystal methamphetamine but will also focus in curbing and preventing problem related to teenage alcohol use and abuses, tobacco and betel nut chewing.

A recent published report revealed that just last year alone there were more than 15,000 crimes that were reported to the Department of Public Safety. The report the describing it "staggering sad reality."

The said report further disclosed that methamphetamine or "ice" problem in the recent past two years has increased. ***(PR)***

Native Hawaiian convention set for October 10-12, 2016

KAPOLEI, HI—The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is set to host the 15th Annual Native Hawaiian Convention from Oct. 10 to 12, 2016, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel & Resort in Honolulu.

The event is one of the largest statewide and national gatherings of Native Hawaiian organizations, leaders, cultural practitioners, policy makers, and community members. Hosting guests from Hawaii and across the country, the 2015 convention welcomed over 500 attendees during its three days of events and forums featuring discussions on health, housing, Hawaiian Homes, philanthropy, education and more. In its 15th year, CNHA aims to continue its success of convening the voices and priorities of the Hawaiian community while celebrating its milestone of 15 years of service to the Hawaiian community.

In addition to policy caucuses, workshops and breakout sessions on a variety of topics, the convention also features the popular Marketplace, highlighting Native Hawaiian practitioners, artists, crafters, and designers with local products for sale. Vendors this year will enjoy sharing their products with convention attendees and the Sheraton Hotel guests occupying the more than 1,600 rooms.

"As we prepare for this year's convention, I am reflecting on CNHA's journey over the last 15 years. Workshops, grant trainings, policy advocacy, leadership development – there has been so much growth within the Hawaiian community over the last 15 years", shared Michelle Kauhane, CNHA president and CEO.

CNHA is preparing to welcome attendees and is looking forward to celebrating 15 amazing years of progress.

Anyone interested in sponsorship opportunities for this year's convention, partnership packages are available at http://www.hawaiiancouncil.org/our-programs/convention/. Registration for the event will be announced later in the year. For more information on the Annual Native Hawaiian Convention, please email info@hawaiiancouncil.org

CNHA is a national network of Native Hawaiian Organizations, providing assistance in accessing capital and technical resources, and is a policy voice on issues important to Native Hawaiian communities. Its mission is to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians. For more information about CNHA please contact us at 808.596.8155, toll-free at 1.800.709.2642, by e-mail at info@hawaiiancouncil.org, or at www.hawaiiancouncil.org. ***(PR)***

The presenters spoke before TJSHS students. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USCG searching for owner of unmanned adrift kayak near Kewalo Basin

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard is searching for the owner of an unmanned adrift kayak found approximately nine miles southwest of Kewalo Basin, Oahu, Saturday.

Anyone with information that may help identify the owner of the kayak is asked to contact the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center at 808-842-2600.

An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point is currently searching the area. Sector Honolulu also issued an urgent marine information broadcast alerting mariners in the area to the situation.

Watchstanders at the Sector Honolulu Command Center received a report at 10:11 a.m., from a good Samaritan who spotted the unmanned and adrift kayak while at sea.

The kayak is red, white and blue with the words Islander on the sides.

There are currently no reported signs of distress or missing persons in the area.

The Coast Guard offers free "If Found" decals to be placed in a visible location on small, human-powered watercraft through the Operation Paddle Smart program. The information on the sticker can allow response entities to quickly identify the vessel's owner and aid search and rescue planners in determining the best course of action. Positive identification may also allow the item to be returned to the owner.

The stickers can be obtained for free at local harbormasters, through the Coast Guard Auxiliary, from Honolulu Sail and Power Squadron offices and at select marine retail and supply stores. ***(PR)***

Interior approves $1.8M in FY '16 Funds for A. Samoa

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved $1.8 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to the Government of American Samoa from the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP).

"This year's funding reflects the priorities and needs of the people of American Samoa including self-determination, climate change adaptation, addressing threats to public health, and workforce development both in areas of health and public works," said Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina. "I am particularly pleased that we can support Governor Lolo Moliga, American Samoa's leadership, and the community in their efforts to advance political status options and climate change adaptation and resiliency initiatives."

The various TAP grants, including two MAP grants awarded for 2016 are as follow:

Kia'aina

■ **American Samoa Constitutional and Political Status Review** – $300,000 to the Office of Samoan Affairs to establish the American Samoa Constitutional and Political Status Review Office. This Office will liaise, advise, and collaborate with the Legislature of American Samoa on amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa and serve as a capacity building initiative focused on exploring possible political status with a full measure of self-governance and educating the community on these options.

■ **Developing a Territorial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan** – $339,390 to the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources to create a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, to identify and prioritize immediate actions American Samoa needs to take to best adapt to climate change impacts. As part of this strategy, a climate change portal and database will be created and a territorial climate change summit will be held.

■ **Territorial Integrated Geospatial Framework** – $250,994 to the American Samoa Departments of Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a centralized Geographical Information Service (GIS) server for all government agencies in the Territory. This comprehensive repository will hold geospatial information and serve as a tool to analyze and visualize data to more effectively understand and predict the effects of climate change and to aid in adaptation planning.

■ **Vulnerability Assessments of Urban Systems and Infrastructure** – $222,500 to the Department of Public Works to identify key infrastructure, their functions and status in order to provide an overall picture of vulnerabilities to climate-related stress and induced events in the territory. This evaluation of existing critical infrastructure will enable long-term transportation planning and help in the systematic prioritization of adaptation and planning, as well as the appropriation of resources.

■ **Improving Capacity to Respond to Emerging Mosquito-Borne Disease** – $217,004 to the Department of Health to provide the equipment to remove and mitigate accumulated mosquito breeding sites in the community, such as tires, scrap vehicles and metals, and provide vector-borne disease prevention training to the community. Located in the tropics, American Samoa has seen threats from numerous arboviruses such as lymphatic filariasis, more commonly known as elephantiasis, dengue, chikungunya and more recently Zika.

■ **Gastroenterology Procedures Training** – $140, 312 to LBJ Tropical Medical Center to improve the clinical capability of its staff by engaging the services of the gastroenterology team to consult on on-island trainings in necessary medical and surgical gastroenterology procedures, and sending LBJ Tropical Medical Center surgeons and technicians to the Straub Clinic and Hospital, a recognized training facility in Honolulu, where they can observe a high volume of these specialized procedures and techniques, which will be used at LBJ. This project will culminate in the evaluation of the skills and proficiencies of the participants.

■ **Certified Ophthalmic Assistants Training** – $34,750 to LBJ Tropical Medical Center for the training of technicians and certification as Certified Ophthalmic Assistants, to improve the efficiency and quality of practice at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center Eye Clinic, so that they may better serve the increasing patient load in a changing, technology-driven health care environment.

MAP Grants

■ **Professional Training and Apprenticeship Program** – $125,000 to the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), for their capacity building program that develops engineers and technical personnel critical to ASPA's operation and to improve services, deal with climate change and comply with Federal regulations. Professional education and licensure will be provided for power system engineers, water/wastewater civil engineers, energy technology engineers, electricians and electronic technicians, and power linemen.

■ **Well Operator Professional Certification Training** – $124,500 to ASPA to provide the necessary training to operate and maintain the drilling equipment and other new technologies required to develop American Samoa's limited water resources. This program will help ASPA's drillers qualify for EPA regulatory required certification and will allow the trained drillers to use these new skills to develop geothermal wells, a necessary component of ASPA's geothermal efforts.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo with Rosalyn Mikel and family. Congresswoman Bordallo nominated Mikel to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Mikel appointed to US Military Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that Rosalyn Mikel has been appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York.

Rosalyn is the daughter of Alfonso Marcos Mikel of Tamuning and will graduate from Saint John's School this year. Rosalyn was nominated by Bordallo, and competed with nominees nationwide for admission into the Air Force Academy.

Rosalyn has a strong record of academic achievement and is heavily involved in her school community. She is a member of the National Honor Society, co-captain of the Tsunami Swim Club and member the St. John's Cross Country Team. Rosalyn has also spent many hours volunteering with various organizations and is actively involved with her church community.

"Rosalyn's appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is a testament to her hard work at Saint John's High School," said Bordallo. "Rosalyn is a driven student and athlete who will continue to excel at the Military Academy. I congratulate Rosalyn and her family on this accomplishment and look forward to her success as a cadet at West Point and as an officer in the U.S. Army." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo with Tomoya Tisdale and family. Bordallo nominated Tisdale to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Tisdale appointed to US Air Force Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that Tomoya Tisdale has been appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Tomoya was nominated by Congresswoman Bordallo, and competed with nominees nationwide for admission into the Air Force Academy. He is the son of Wayne Tisdale and Yoshimi Nakazato from Piti. Tomoya will graduate from Guam High School this June.

Tomoya is an active member of the Guam High School NJROTC program where he serves as the Commanding Officer. He is also the president of the Guam Honor Band and is a member of the Guam Territorial Band. Additionally, Tomoya is a member of the U.S. Sea Cadet Corps and Side Kicks Soccer Club.

"I am proud of Tomoya and congratulate him on his appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy," said Bordallo. "Tomoya has displayed academic excellence and a commitment to service and leadership throughout his high school career. His NJROTC experience has helped prepare him for the Academy and demonstrates his eagerness to serve our country. I look forward to Tomoya's success at the Air Force Academy and in his career as an Air Force officer." ***(PR)***

Business

US hotel company Starwood to run 3 Cuban hotels

HAVANA (AP)—Starwood signed a deal on Saturday to renovate and run three Cuban hotels, returning U.S. chains to the island more than 50 years after American hotels were taken over by Fidel Castro's socialist revolution.

All Cuban hotels are state-owned so the deal puts a major U.S. corporation directly in business with the Communist government under a special U.S. license that pushes Washington's legal dismantling of the Cuban trade embargo further than ever before. In a once-unimaginable arrangement, a hotel owned by the tourism arm of the Cuban military will become a Sheraton Four Points.

The deal comes on the eve of President Barack Obama's historic visit to Cuba, which will open a new era between the former Cold War foes that has American travelers and businesses eagerly eyeing opportunities on the island nation 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of Florida.

Starwood's chief of Latin America operations, Jorge Giannattasio, said the company will invest millions to renovate and rebrand the Quinta Avenida, Santa Isabel and Inglaterra hotels, train and hire new staff and reopen the hotels by the end of the year. The Quinta Avenida is owned by Gaviota, a military-run tourism conglomerate. The Santa Isabel and Inglaterra, which are run by other state agencies, will be operated as part of Starwood's Luxury Collection brand.

It's unclear, however, how long Starwood can be called an American company. On Friday, Starwood called off a $12.2 billion buyout agreement with Marriott in favor of an offer from a group of investors led by the Chinese insurance company Anbang.

Cuban hotels are notorious for their ramshackle furnishings and poor service. Giannattasio said the Cuban Starwood hotels would be refitted with everything from new mattress to improved kitchen equipment and safety measures and managed by teams of expatriate Starwood employees.

AP

Starwood Hotels and Resorts Chief of Latin American Operations Jorge Giannattasio speaks to reporters, in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, March 19, 2016.

Cuban law prevents widespread direct hiring of Cuban workers by foreign firms. International companies complain that their inability to directly hire Cuban employees, and if necessary demote or fire underperforming staff, hinders their ability to provide satisfactory customer service.

Giannattasio said he was confident that Starwood would have enough flexibility and control to maintain the company's standards in Cuba, although he declined to comment on details of the firm's arrangement with the Cuban government. Starwood will receive a fee for its branding and management services.

The number of visitors to Cuba surged nearly 20 percent last year, with nearly 80 percent more Americans flying to the island. The surge has overwhelmed Cuba's decrepit tourism infrastructure and left hotels above capacity.

Numbers are expected to rise even more sharply this year with the start of as many as 110 commercial flights a day from the United States, one of dozens of moves the U.S. administration has made to punch holes in the trade embargo as part of a broader normalization of relations with Cuba since Obama and Raul Castro declared detente on Dec. 17, 2014.

On Tuesday, the Obama administration removed the last meaningful restrictions on travel to Cuba, announcing that it would allow individuals to visit the island for "people to people" educational trips. While the ban on U.S. tourism technically remains in place, it becomes an honor system that is essentially unenforceable.

Americans will have to keep records for five years about what they did in Cuba, but won't have to submit them unless asked. The Obama administration previously loosened requirements by allowing organized trips without advance U.S. permission and independent travel for specific purposes like religious activities or sports events.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cyprus pilot of crashed FlyDubai jet had a new job elsewhere

BRUSSELS (AP)—The Cypriot pilot of the FlyDubai jet that crashed in southern Russia was going to quit the airline after recently accepting a job with Ryanair in Cyprus, a long-time friend said Saturday. The friend told The Associated Press that pilot Aristos Socratous, whose wife will give birth to the couple's first child in a few weeks, wanted to raise his family in Cyprus despite a drop in his wages. "The loss of income doesn't compare with being close to your family in your home country," the friend said. The 38-year-old aviator was so looking forward to making a fresh start in Cyprus that he gave up his passion—his two motorcycles, which he used to drag race with, his friend said.

Nissan recalling vehicles for fuel pump that stops working

Nissan is expanding a recall of 2014 Rogue vehicles to fix a fuel pump problem that can prevent the engine from starting or cause the engine to while the vehicle is being driven. The expanded recall affects 46,671 vehicles manufactured between July 25, 2013 and June 7, 2014, according to information the manufacturer reported to federal safety officials. Nissan says the affected fuel pumps have nickel plating that can flake and create loose particles that interfere with the pump's operation. While the problem is more likely to prevent the engine from starting, Nissan says it could cause a crash if the engine stops while driving. The company is notifying affected owners to bring their vehicles to a Nissan dealer, who will replace the fuel pump at no cost. ***(AP)***

Jury says Vegas man bilked investors with Nigerian oil scam

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Anton Paul Drago passed himself off as an heir to a Shell Oil fortune, a disabled former U.S. Marine, and an engineer and oil industry expert with 30 years of experience and a plan to ship Nigerian oil to a refinery he envisioned in the Bahamas. But federal prosecutors say he was a con man who took victims' money, in amounts from less than $6,000 to $400,000, promising some that they could quadruple their money in two months. "The defendant never exported one drop of oil from Nigeria, and none of his victims received legitimate profits from the scheme," Internal Revenue Service prosecutors said in court filings in the case against Drago. Drago, 65, a Las Vegas resident who also used the name Evan Joseph Fogarty, was found guilty Wednesday of 10 charges including conspiracy, fraud, theft of government funds and submitting false Veterans Affairs claims.

Judge dismisses bulk of criminal charges against FedEx Corp.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge dismissed the bulk of criminal charges against FedEx Corp. in a case alleging it knowingly shipped illegal prescription drugs.

Senior U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer said Friday the government named the wrong defendant in an agreement that gave it more time to file charges. As a result, the charges were filed past the statute of limitations.

Breyer denied the government's request to substitute the correct defendant and tossed out more than a dozen of the 18 counts against parent company FedEx Corp. and subsidiary, FedEx Corporate Services, Inc.

"FedEx's corporate structure is clearly described on numerous public websites—including sec.gov—which the government could have used to check its work in drafting the tolling agreement that underpins this novel prosecution," Breyer said. "But the government did not check its work."

Prosecutors have also charged a second FedEx subsidiary, and that case appears to be unaffected by Breyer's decision. Additionally, FedEx Corp. and FedEx Corporate Services, Inc. still face charges of money laundering and a count of conspiring to distribute controlled substances.

An email to prosecutors on Saturday was not immediately returned. They argued that FedEx had a duty to correct the mistake, and suggested its attorneys engaged in gamesmanship by only revealing the error after the statute of limitations lapsed, according to Breyer's ruling.

Prosecutors have accused FedEx of conspiring with online pharmacies to ship powerful sleep aids, sedatives, painkillers and other drugs to customers it knew lacked valid prescriptions.

FedEx spokeswoman Melissa Charbonneau said in a statement on Saturday that none of its entities is guilty of "anything more than attempting to assist the government in doing its job of enforcing the law, and we will demonstrate this at trial."

It's not uncommon in a major prosecution with multiple counts to lose some of them, and the conspiracy count still allows the government to prove bad conduct by FedEx Corp., said Rory Little, a former federal prosecutor who now teaches at the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

But he said the dismissals could allow FedEx Corp. to distance itself from any convictions that come down by arguing its subsidiaries were to blame.

Facebook's Zuckerberg meets China's propaganda chief

BEIJING (AP)—Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg held a rare meeting Saturday with China's propaganda chief, at a time when Chinese authorities are tightening control over their cyberspace.

Liu Yunshan told Zuckerberg that he hopes Facebook can share its experience with Chinese companies to help "Internet development better benefit the people of all countries," the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Zuckerberg was in Beijing to attend an economic forum.

China has called for the creation of a global Internet "governance system" and cooperation between countries to regulate Internet use, stepping up efforts to promote controls that activists complain stifle free expression.

Facebook and other Western social media including Twitter are banned in China. Zuckerberg has long been courting China's leaders in a so far futile attempt to access the country with the world's largest number of Internet users—668 million as of last year.

China has been increasing control over its Internet, dubbed the Great Firewall because it is already heavily censored. Liu, a member of the ruling Communist Party's top leadership panel, the Politburo Standing Committee, recently said that all Internet users must not cross the "baseline" when discussing China's governance.

Chinese censors have introduced a slate of new regulations to better enable them to police digital and social media as closely as traditional publications. The country's top Internet regulator has repeatedly warned that an untamed cyberspace would pose a risk to domestic security and the government should decide who to allow into "its house."

Nation

Eyeing new future with US, Cubans await visit by Obama

HAVANA (AP)—Eyeing a new future with the U.S., Cubans are preparing their famed capital for a long-awaited visit by President Barack Obama, who will make history when Air Force One touches down in Havana.

Obama's visit to the tiny island nation beginning Sunday will serve as a powerful symbol of the relationship that the U.S. and Cuba are now forging. For Obama, the 2½-day trip offers one of the last, best chances to advance the diplomatic opening with President Raul Castro before Obama leaves office early next year.

Ahead of Obama's arrival, American flags were raised in parts of Havana alongside Cuban flags, an improbably image for those who lived through a half-century in which the U.S. and Cuba were bitter foes. Cubans were hard at work cleaning up Old Havana and giving buildings a fresh coat of paint, as the city buzzed in anticipation of Obama's visit.

Yet while Obama remains a popular figure in Cuba, the jubilation that surged here in the early days of detente has been tempered by the absence of tangible improvement in most people's lives. In a reminder of how tightly Cuban society is still controlled, the Castro government announced a virtual shutdown of Havana during Obama's stay, and few Cubans expected to see him in person.

AP

A man wearing a shirt and head scarf with a Stars and Stripes motif flashes a thumbs up at a weekly rumba dance gathering in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, March 19, 2016.

"I don't think things are going to improve here," said Rosa Lopez, 52-year-old food stand worker. Gesturing at her worn-out sandals and soft drinks for sale, she added, "All this is here, in this country, and the United States is way over there."

Still, the historic significance of Obama's visit was impossible to overlook. Not in nearly 90 years has a sitting American president visited Cuba.

Joined by his wife and daughters, Obama will stroll the streets of Old Havana and meet with Castro in his presidential offices. He'll join baseball-crazed Cubans for a historic game between their beloved national team and Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays.

Obama will be closely watched for signs of how aggressively he's pushing Cuba's communist leaders on the very issues that led the U.S. to isolate Cuba for the last half-century: human rights, democracy and economic reform. Though Cuban officials have warned Obama against meddling, the White House insists he'll use his visit to speak directly to Cubans about possibilities for a different future.

To that end, Obama will meet with dissidents critical of Castro's government. Aiming to show that Obama was traveling on his terms, the White House emphasized that Obama—not Cuba's government—was deciding which dissidents would attend.

At home, Obama has faced intense criticism from some Cuban-Americans who see his outreach as a disgraceful embrace of a government whose practices and values betray much of what America stands for. That's increasingly a minority view among both Cuban-Americans and the broader U.S. population.

With orca changes, SeaWorld must live without iconic Shamu

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—SeaWorld built its brand on a leaping and splashing killer whale named Shamu. She was part of its logo, gave her name to stadiums in the theme parks and was the inspiration for rides. The orca image sold T-shirts and soft, stuffed animals for the kids to take home.

With the company phasing out its killer whale program, it is forced to ponder the question: What is SeaWorld without Shamu?

"The orcas were their most powerful engagement tool," said Allen Adamson, a marketing and branding expert based in New York. "It requires SeaWorld to reinvent its core signature attraction. It's not an easy fix."

Under unrelenting pressure from animal rights groups and suffering from a drop in ticket sales, SeaWorld announced Thursday it was ending its orca breeding program and stopping its traditional killer whale shows.

SeaWorld isn't the only company to lose a signature and popular icon. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is retiring all its touring elephants to a 200-acre conservation center in May under similar pressure. And McDonald's phased out its "supersized" menu following the 2004 documentary, "Super Size Me," in which filmmaker Morgan Spurlock chronicled the effects of the chain's food on his health.

But McDonald's didn't go as far as SeaWorld, said Debanjan Mitra, branding expert at the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business.

"A comparable situation would be if McDonald's says, 'Tomorrow we are taking down the Big Mac.' That didn't happen," Mitra said.

SeaWorld's decision followed a backlash from the 2013 documentary "Blackfish," which told the story of Tilikum, an orca responsible for the death of a SeaWorld trainer in 2010 and two other people in the 1990s. Attendance at SeaWorld's parks in San Diego, Orlando and San Antonio declined and some top musical acts dropped out of SeaWorld-sponsored concerts at the urging of animal rights activists, who demonstrated outside the parks' gates.

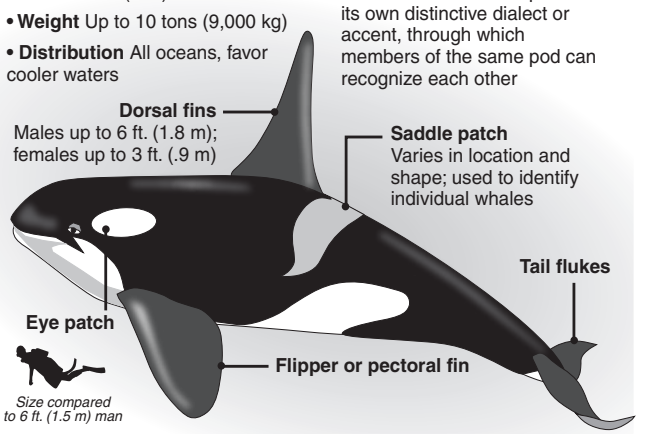
SeaWorld to stop breeding orcas

After years of pressure, SeaWorld said it no longer will breed killer whales in captivity and will soon stop making them leap from their pools or splash audiences on command. SeaWorld's 29 killer whales will remain in captivity, but in a new natural environment exhibit.

Killer whales

Orcas are the largest member of the dolphin family.

- **Length** Males 27 ft. (8.2 m); females 23 ft. (7 m)
- **Weight** Up to 10 tons (9,000 kg)
- **Distribution** All oceans, favor cooler waters
- **Behavior** Very social; studies have shown that each pod has its own distinctive dialect or accent, through which members of the same pod can recognize each other


Dorsal fins
Males up to 6 ft. (1.8 m); females up to 3 ft. (.9 m)
Saddle patch
Varies in location and shape; used to identify individual whales
Tail flukes
Eye patch
Flipper or pectoral fin
Size compared to 6 ft. (1.5 m) man

Source: AP, National Geographic, Whale Museum
Graphic: TNS

Trump's immigration stance resonates at tense rallies

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Donald Trump's campaign for all of Arizona's Republican delegates is centered on the hard line against illegal immigration that he's taken from the start, and it's a message his supporters lapped up in a series of tense weekend gatherings leading into Tuesday's presidential primaries in the border state.

"Illegal immigration is gonna stop," Trump vowed in Tucson on Saturday night. "It's dangerous," he said. "Terrible."

Both in Phoenix and Tucson, Trump was introduced by former Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, who pushed tough immigration laws in office, and Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who made his name by chasing down people who are in the country illegally.

Protesters showed up at every event, blockading the main road into his outdoor Phoenix rally for several hours before it started, and interrupting him and being thrown out in Tucson late in the day. Trump treated the latest protests with a mix of pacifist rhetoric and a mocking tone. "We love our protesters, don't we?" he asked. As security removed one or more, he said: "We want to do it with love," then added bitingly, "Get 'em outta here."

At the indoor Tucson rally, one protester carried a sign with an image of a Confederate flag over an image of Trump and another wore a Ku Klux Klan-style sheet. A man in the crowd attacked the protester with the Confederate sign, kicking and punching him before being arrested. The protesters were led out by security.

As the rally attendees later streamed out of the Trump rally, protesters hurled two water bottles at them and called them racists.

Arizona Democrats vote Tuesday, too, and Democratic contender Bernie Sanders campaigned at the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona. Standing in front of a tall, steel fence that divides the two countries, Sanders promised to keep immigrant families together by taking more steps than President Barack Obama has done to protect many from deportation. He branded Arpaio a bully and slammed the "divisive, bigoted and xenophobic comments of people like Donald Trump."

Lights out: Cities worldwide mark the 10th annual Earth Hour

NEW YORK (AP)—Cities around the world turned out the lights Saturday evening to mark the 10th annual Earth Hour, a global movement dedicated to protecting the planet and highlighting the effects of climate change.

As night came on, the lights went out in cities from South Korea to the United States in what the World Wildlife Fund describes as a moment of solidarity for climate action. The group sponsors the event and says people in 178 countries and territories had planned to participate.

Lights went out for the hour-long event—from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time—in Beijing, Moscow, Beirut, Cairo, Athens, Rome, and Paris. The lights atop the Empire State Building in New York were dimmed, and some billboards in Times Square also went dark.

In Seoul, the glass-covered City Hall was among several public buildings where officials switched off the lights inside and out. Lights illuminating landmarks such as the massive COEX shopping mall, the city's main railway station and several bridges on the Han River were all either turned off or dimmed.

In Beijing, Chinese actress Li Bingbing showed up at the iconic Temple of Confucius, which was shut dark for an hour while municipal government officials announced that the city's energy conservation slogan would be "Consume less, consume wisely."

The Taipei 101 skyscraper was among the buildings to go dark in Taiwan's capital.

Philippine officials in metropolitan Manila led hundreds of environmental activists, students and movie and TV celebrities in switching off lights at the Quezon Memorial Circle in suburban Quezon city. Amid the darkness, some participants pedaled bamboo bikes attached to small energy generators to power LED lights and illuminate a giant Philippine map to symbolize the country's yearning to shift to renewable energy sources, organizers said.

The first Earth Hour event was held on March 31, 2007, when the WWF conservation group inspired people in Sydney to turn out the lights for an hour. Since then, the WWF-organized event has expanded to thousands of cities and towns around the world and has been held every March.

Asia

Tibetans voting for government-in-exile

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—Tens of thousands of Tibetan exiles are voting around the world Sunday to elect a new prime minister and parliament for a second time since the Dalai Lama stepped down as head of the government in 2011 to focus on his role as a spiritual leader.

Buddhist monks in crimson robes lined up along with hundreds of Tibetan men and women in schools, government buildings and the courtyard of the Tsuglakhang Temple in India's northern city of Dharmsala, where the exiled government is based, to cast their votes in a festive atmosphere.

Prime Minister Lobsang Sangay is running for re-election, and his opponent is parliament speaker Penpa Tsering. Both continue to support "a middle way" proposed by the Dalai Lama, which calls for seeking regional autonomy under Chinese rule. Both cast their votes in a government building.

Some 80,000 registered Tibetans in exile are voting in a daylong election. The result is expected next month.

Some groups have been advocating independence for Tibet as little progress has been made in the dialogue with China. But their representatives couldn't win enough support in the first round of voting last year to be in the running for the prime minister's post.

"There has been little discussion about the future of Tibet," said Bhuchung D Sonam, a Tibetan writer. "For example, how the two candidates would approach the issue of Tibet in terms of talking to China."

China doesn't recognize the Tibetan government-in-exile. It hasn't held any dialogue with the representatives of the Dalai Lama since 2010.

Exiled Tibetan officials say at least 114 monks and laypeople have self-immolated to protest Chinese rule over their homeland over the past five years, with most of them dying. Radio Free Asia puts the number of self-immolations at 144 since 2009.

Beijing blames the Dalai Lama and others for inciting the immolations and says it has made vast investments to develop the Tibet's economy and improve quality of life.

The Dalai Lama has been living in exile in Dharmsala since he fled Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

Chinese governor's false claims shows practice of deception

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese governor's rare admission of having given a misleading account about the plight of coal miners has prompted new laments among the public about pervasive deception practiced by China's bureaucracy, with even state media calling on officials to be more truthful.

Heilongjiang Gov. Lu Hao's assertion that 80,000 miners at his province's largest mining company had been fully paid triggered an angry protest by the workers. The governor soon backtracked and pledged to pay back wages.

His candor won some applause, but it also reignited questions online and even in state media about how he could have been so easily misinformed on such an important matter.

"There's hardly any thread of authenticity these days in the reports from subordinates to their supervisors in the government, and the superiors shall by no means believe any of those reports," wrote Hua Yuxi, a Chinese blogger. "Their statistics, their work summaries, and their achievements are all fully inflated."

The incident came just months after the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that officials in China's northeast admitted they had inflated economic data, apparently to meet targets and impress their superiors.

In one case, a county in Liaoning province inflated its fiscal revenue by 847 million yuan ($131 million) for 2013, state auditors reported last year. Xinhua said local governments had cooked the books to cover up fabricated data on everything from economic growth to investments, consumption, trade, urban projects and urban incomes, before investigators and cooperating officials uncovered the scam.

"Although officials at all levels know the dangers of inflated statistics, they feel they have no choice when they feel the pressure from performance evaluation, regional competition and promotions for themselves," Xinhua said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Britain's Prince Harry begins 5-day official trip to Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry has begun a five-day official trip to Nepal, meeting with the prime minister and attending a ceremony to mark 200 years of relations between the two nations. Hundreds of people cheered as the 31-year-old prince came out of Kathmandu's airport Saturday. He later met Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli at his official residence and attended a ceremony hosted by Nepal's government. During his trip, Harry will tour areas hit by last year's devastating earthquake and visit a camp for displaced quake survivors. People are hoping his visit will draw attention to Nepal's struggle to recover from the disaster.

Afghan Taliban leader rallies supporters, calls for unity

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The leader of the Afghan Taliban on Friday called on followers to end divisions and rally behind him in the battle against the Kabul government as authorities step up the fight against the 15-year-old insurgency. In a message distributed to media, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor claimed the Taliban were winning the war and were "in a better state than at any other time." The Taliban were toppled in the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. The insurgency has escalated since the end in 2014 of the U.S.-NATO combat mission left inexperienced Afghan forces to battle the insurgents largely on their own. As the Taliban launched their annual warm-weather offensive last year, the government responded with large-scale military operations. Ferocious battles have raged in the militants' southern heartland of Helmand province and elsewhere.

PH airliner with 254 aboard makes emergency landing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine Airlines plane carrying more than 250 people made a safe emergency landing in Manila on Saturday shortly after takeoff on a domestic flight due to suspected smoke in the cockpit, an official said. The Airbus A340 aircraft was airborne for 10 minutes when its pilot declared an emergency and requested to land back in Manila, said Eric Apolonio of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. The plane landed safely and there were no injuries among the 254 people aboard, Apolonio said. After the passengers disembarked, Manila airport firefighters began checking the aircraft.

World

Heavy winds as FlyDubai plane crashes in Russia, killing 62

MOSCOW (AP)—Winds were gusting before dawn Saturday over the airport in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don when a plane carrying 62 people from a favorite Russian holiday destination decided to abort its landing.

AP

Russian Emergency Ministry employees investigate the wreckage of a crashed plane at the Rostov-on-Don airport, about 950 kilometers (600 miles) south of Moscow, Russia Saturday, March 19, 2016.

The timing was tricky. Two planes had landed just a few minutes before the FlyDubai plane aimed to touch down. On the other hand, a Russian Aeroflot plane scheduled to land around the same time tried to come down three times then diverted to another airport, according to Flightradar24, an aviation website.

The FlyDubai pilots chose to put their Boeing 737-800 into a holding pattern, circling for two hours over the city located 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Ukraine border. But when they did finally try to land, something went catastrophically wrong. Their plane plummeted to Earth and exploded in a huge fireball, killing everyone aboard.

Grainy video footage, apparently from a security camera near the airport that was posted on Russian websites, showed a plane streaking toward the ground at a steep angle, then exploding. The powerful explosion left a big crater in the airport's runway and pulverized the plane, but investigators recovered both flight recorders.

3 foreigners among 5 killed in Istanbul suicide bomb attack

ISTANBUL (AP)—A suicide attack on Istanbul's main pedestrian shopping street Saturday killed five people, including two dual nationality Israeli-Americans and one Iranian citizen, and wounded several dozen others, in the sixth suicide bombing in Turkey in the past year.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu issued a statement saying there were several foreigners among the victims.

"Turkey has always said that terrorism has no religion, no language and no race and that terrorism has to be condemned no matter who the perpetrators are," he said. "This sad event has shown once again how right our position is."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but suspicion fell on the Islamic State group and on Kurdish militants who have claimed two recent attacks in the capital, Ankara. DNA samples were taken from family members of two possible Islamic State militants who could be the bomber, the private Turkish Dogan news agency reported.

The explosion ripped through Istiklal Street, a popular destination for tourists and locals in a central neighborhood that is home to cafes, restaurants, foreign consulates and a government office. Istanbul Governor Vasip Sahin said there were five fatalities and that investigations were still under way. An interior ministry official said the death toll included the suicide bomber.

Police swiftly sealed off the area as ambulances and a forensic team rushed to the scene after the bombing about 11 a.m. Normally packed cafes were either closed or virtually empty, with business owners making frantic calls to loved ones to assure them of their safety. Rattled tourists wondered where to go.

Prosecutor: Suspect backed out of being Paris suicide bomber

BRUSSELS (AP)—After a bullet in the leg ended his four-month flight from the law, Salah Abdeslam started a legal fight Saturday against his extradition from Belgium to France, where the president and the families of 130 victims want the top suspect in the Paris attacks to stand trial.

In Paris, prosecutor Francois Molins said during an interrogation session on Saturday that Abdeslam told Belgian officials that he had "wanted to blow himself up at the Stade de France" on Nov. 13 but that he backed out at the last minute. Molins did not say what caused the 26-year-old purportedly to change his mind.

Abdeslam was shot Friday along with a suspected accomplice when they were captured by Belgian police during a massive anti-terror raid in Brussels. He was found at an apartment a mere 500 meters (yards) from his parents' home, where he grew up.

On Saturday, he was discharged from the St. Pierre hospital in Brussels, questioned by authorities lying down because of his gunshot wound, and then officially charged with "participation in terrorist murder" in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks. France quickly issued a new European arrest warrant with more charges to speed up his extradition to a June 18 deadline.

French President Francois Hollande made it clear he wanted Abdeslam back in Paris, the city he fled after the November carnage. The suspect's Belgian lawyer made it clear he would fight extradition.

Lawyer Sven Mary said since there was a criminal investigation in Brussels, "we don't need him in France. We need him in Belgium." He said any hasty extradition would be motivated by a sense of guilt since the attacks were prepared and coordinated in Belgium and several attackers came from Brussels.

Health & Fitness

MCT

University of Texas Dallas student Alec Vela is photographed at the campus' student activity center on Feb. 12, 2016.

Smoothie store employee gets **inspired** to LOSE WEIGHT

By LESLIE BARKER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Alec Vela, who turns 21 next week, weighed 259 pounds when he started working at a smoothie shop in October 2014. For six months, he watched fit customers come in "with a satisfied look on their faces after a workout," he says.

Then in April 2015, he decided to make his own lifestyle change. He began swapping one meal for a smoothie every day and being more careful with food choices. He started working out, and has lost more than 65 pounds.

■ Typical week of workouts: I work out five to six times a week. One day I'll do chest, triceps and ab exercises. Another, I'll work on back, biceps, shoulders, and another day I'll do all leg muscles. I rotate through these days, ending each workout with 20 to 30 minutes of light cardio.

■ If I had 20 minutes to work out, I would... Swim laps. You get tired really quickly due to the fact that it is a really good cardio exercise. Plus, it's a good full-body workout if you don't have much time.

■ What gets in the way of my exercise? I don't let anything get in the way. I believe there should never be an excuse to not exercise, because everybody can take 30 minutes out of their day to do something, if they truly have the drive to get better.

■ Proudest fitness moment: Once I got into the 100s on the scale. I have been in the 200s since high school, so after losing 61 pounds, I was extremely proud of myself.

■ Fitness goals: To reach 174 pounds.

■ What will you always find in my refrigerator? Eggs, Chobani Greek yogurt, fruit.

■ What would I tell someone who wants to follow my routine? Set personal fitness goals. Then it's all about consistency and staying disciplined. Along the way, stay positive and proud about the progress you make, and never get discouraged by comparing yourself to others.

■ What my workout says about me: My workout says I am trying to maintain and build lean muscle, while burning off fat through light cardio and lifting. Keeping a rotation between the muscle groups shows I am organized and disciplined, which is key to reaching your fitness goals.

MCT

University of Texas Dallas student Alec Vela lost 70 pounds in nine months from drinking smoothies from work, Smoothie King, watching what else he eats and working out five to six times a week.

What's wrong with the American diet? More than half our calories come from 'ultra-processed' foods

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Researchers who have analyzed America's eating habits say they can sum up what's wrong with our diet in just two words: ultra-processed foods.

These foods—a group that includes frozen pizzas, breakfast cereals and soda—make up 58 percent of all calories Americans consume in a typical day. Not only that, they delivered 90 percent of the added sugars that Americans ate and drank, according to a study published Wednesday in the medical journal BMJ Open.

Government health experts advise Americans to get no more than 10 percent of their total calories in the form of added sugars. But most us aren't listening. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have said that 71 percent of American adults exceeded that 10 percent goal, and that added sugars accounted for 15 percent of all the calories they consumed.

All of that added sugar makes people more likely to be overweight or obese. That, in turn, sets them up for serious health problems like Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer (not to mention lots of cavities).

More than 75 percent of the sugar and high-fructose corn syrup eaten by Americans was used by the food industry, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. So researchers thought it would be a good idea to figure out the extent to which the food industry was feeding America.

To find out, they turned to data collected by the CDC as part of its ongoing National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which tracks the eating habits of a nationally representative group of children and adults. The researchers focused on interviews with 9,317 people in 2009 and 2010 who recalled every single thing they had eaten in the previous 24 hours. More than 280,000 food items were named.

The survey-takers consumed 2,070 calories per day, on average. About 28 percent of those calories came from unprocessed or minimally processed foods, such as eggs, milk, vegetables and fish, and 31 percent from cooking ingredients like table sugar and olive oil. An additional 10 percent were traced to processed foods, including cheese, canned vegetables and cured meat.

But the caloric contribution of ultra-processed foods was greater than for all other categories combined, accounting for nearly 3 in every 5 calories consumed.

The researchers defined ultra-processed foods as those that used artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners, stabilizers and other additives to make them taste like real food or mask their "undesirable qualities." Breads, cakes, cookies, pies and salty snacks were the most popular ultra-processed foods, as measured by their contribution to the day's total calories.

Overall, 14 percent of all calories could be traced to added sugars, the survey data revealed. But some types of food were sweeter than others.

By definition, unprocessed and minimally processed foods contained no added sugars. Processed foods got 2 percent of their calories from added sugars, on average. For ultra-processed foods, that figure was 21 percent.

Not surprisingly, the more ultra-processed foods a person ate, the more likely they were to blow past the 10 percent added sugar limit. The researchers divided the survey-takers into five equal-sized groups based on their consumption of ultra-processed foods. Among those who ate the least of these foods, added sugar accounted for 7.5 percent of total calories; among those who ate the most ultra-processed foods, added sugars made up 19.5 percent of total calories.

The significance of these results is clear, the researchers said: If Americans are ever going to get serious about added sugars, they'll have to cut way back on ultra-processed foods.

Life & Style

Next in Hulk Hogan sex tape suit: punitive damages, appeals

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The eye-popping $115 million award for former pro-wrestler Hulk Hogan isn't the final round in his sex tape lawsuit against Gawker Media.

Next up, the jury will return to court Monday to award punitive damages in the case that's been closely watched by First Amendment experts, media lawyers and privacy advocates.

And even when the jury's done, there will be appeals.

"Given the key evidence and the most important witness in this case were withheld from the jury, we all knew the appeals court would need to resolve this case," said Gawker founder Nick Denton.

The jurors reached their decision Friday evening. Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea, sued Gawker for $100 million for posting a video of him having sex with his former best friend's wife. Hogan contended the 2012 post violated his privacy.

Jury awards this large are often reduced by appeals courts.

"It's a huge damage award, and just the idea that a celebrity has a right to privacy that outweighs freedom of the press and the public's right to know, that's a huge shift in American free press law," said Samantha Barbas.

"It could potentially be a turning point in law," added Barbas, a law professor at the University at Buffalo and author of "The Laws of Image," about the history of libel and privacy

Hogan, 62, wept after the award was announced Friday evening. He was silent as he walked out of the courthouse, clad all in black and wearing sunglasses in the twilight. He didn't speak to the media, and declined to sign an autograph request from a fan.

AP

Hulk Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea walks out of the courthouse on March 18, 2016, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Bollea was awarded $115 million in damages in his lawsuit against the gossip website Gawker on Friday.

Hogan's team issued a statement: "We're exceptionally happy with the verdict. We think it represents a statement as to the public's disgust with the invasion of privacy disguised as journalism. The verdict says no more."

The verdict and the unsealing of hundreds of pages of documents late in the day capped a three week judicial circus in the sleepy St. Petersburg courtroom.

Jurors, media and thousands who followed the case on Twitter and livestream video were treated to days of details about Hogan's sex life, body part size, and images of him in thong underwear. There was wrestling history, videos of Hogan yukking it up with Howard Stern and, most notably, how Gawker—a 12-year-old news and gossip website in New York City- does journalism differently from legacy media.

The unsealed documents will undoubtedly be key in Gawker's appeals process. The evidence was unsealed because a group of media companies, including The Associated Press, sued for access and won. The civil court judge in the case had ruled that the documents be sealed, but an appellate court sided with the media companies, saying they were of legitimate public interest.

The documents outline allegations, facts and conflicting testimony. Among them: assertions that Hogan filed the lawsuit to hide racist comments made on video, that the woman who Hogan had sex with knew it was being filmed, and that Hogan participated in an FBI investigation and sting because he was being extorted.

Lawyers for Hogan and Gawker discussed themes of personal life versus celebrity and freedom of speech versus the right to privacy.

They said Hogan didn't consent to the video, that Gawker didn't follow usual journalism procedures before posting it and that the video wasn't newsworthy. Gawker did not try to contact Hogan or the woman in the video; nor did the website contact the woman's husband, DJ Bubba The Love Sponge Clem, who recorded the video.

It was never conclusively determined during the trial who leaked the video to the media. Clem invoked his right to not incriminate himself and wasn't called as a witness. Hogan sued Clem and settled for $5,000.

Hogan didn't ask for any of this to happen, lawyer Kenneth Turkel said, adding that Bollea, the private man, expected privacy during an intimate moment. Much was made during the trial of Hogan's celebrity persona versus Bollea's privacy.

"I want you to imagine the fact that for 35-plus years he is essentially an actor, an entertainer, who has played the same role," Turkel said.

He said Hogan "has every right, every right, to keep whatever precious private moments in his life, which for this gentleman are very few."

China punishes 'Ip Man 3' distributor for box office fraud

BEIJING (AP)—China's film authorities have suspended the license of a distributor that inflated box office figures for Hong Kong martial arts movie "Ip Man 3," according to state media.

The third instalment of the franchise starring Donnie Yen opened in mainland China on March 4 and soon attracted allegations of fraud after it reportedly earned more than 500 million yuan ($77 million) in just four days.

The movie's distributor, Dayinmu, which is also known as Beijing Max Screen, admitted to having bought 56 million yuan's ($9 million's) worth of tickets, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday.

"The conspirators fabricated more than 7,600 screenings of the film that they claimed generated 32 million yuan ($5 million) in ticket sales," Xinhua added. It cited China's film bureau under the broadcasting regulator.

No phone number was listed for Dayinmu, and it had no immediate statement on its official microblog.

Chinese cinemas and distributors have been accused of faking ticket sales in the past.

For virtual reality creators, motion sickness a real issue

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If the controls and movement in a traditional video game aren't natural, it's merely annoying to players. For designers of virtual reality experiences, the same mistake could make users sick.

With the release of a trio of high-definition headsets on the horizon, many VR aficionados in attendance at this week's Game Developers Conference in San Francisco are confronting that issue head on.

The low-latency headsets from Oculus, HTC and Sony are intended to right the nausea-inducing wrongs of their VR predecessors from 20 years ago, but many users still report feeling woozy after using souped-up systems, such as the Oculus Rift.

"The challenge is that people's sensitivity to motion and simulator sickness varies wildly," said Evan Suma, an assistant professor who studies VR at the University of Southern California, during a talk at the 30th annual gathering of game creators.

It's a unique design challenge for game makers accustom to crafting interactive entertainment appearing on flat screens in front of gamers, not completely encasing them.

Despite the advancements made in VR over the past four years, there's still concern the immersive technology may force players to lose more than a battle with an alien. They could also lose their lunch.

AP

In this Jan. 6, 2016 file photo, Peijun Guo wears the Oculus Rift VR headset at the Oculus booth at CES International in Las Vegas.

"It's been a huge focus of development," said Hilmar Petursson, CEO of CCP Games, which is developing several VR games, including the sci-fi dogfighting simulator "EVE: Valkyrie." ''We want super comfort all the way."

Petursson said the developers of "Valkyrie" opted to surround seated players with a virtual cockpit to ground and shelter them from the effects of appearing to whiz through space past asteroids, missiles and ships.

Other designers are attempting to tackle the problem by limiting movement in virtual worlds and not inundating players with head-spinning stimuli.

"If you have something for your brain to fixate on as the thing that matches similar inputs you're given when sitting in the real world, you're going to be feeling a lot better," said Palmer Luckey, co-founder of Oculus, which ignited the latest VR revolution in 2012.

Oculus and Sony both posted health and safety warnings outside their booths on the GDC show floor, cautioning attendees trying the Rift and PlayStation VR that they may feel motion sickness, nausea, disorientation and blurred vision. Those effects were felt by many attendees.

"After a morning's worth of different Rift games, I felt disorientated, a touch nauseous and distinctly headachey," wrote Keza MacDonald on the gaming site Kotaku. "After five hours, I felt like I needed a lie-down in a dark room."

Kimberly Voll, senior technical designer at Radial Games, noted during her GDC speech about the effects of VR on the brain that more academic research about VR should be conducted.

"We really need to look hard at the effects of long-term exposure to VR, the psychological effects and what we can say about the power of our VR experiences," said Voll, who has studied computer and cognitive science.

With hype for VR at an all-time high and pre-orders for the Rift and HTC Vive sold out, it's no longer a question of if consumers will want to experience VR. They do. It's now becoming a matter of how long it's safe to keep it on their noggins.

Would two hours in VR be too much?

"With the current technology, it's iffy," said Luckey. "It's all technologically solvable. It's not like we're saying, 'Oh no. We can't get any better. This is a dead end.' We have tons of ways to make this higher resolution, lighter weight and more comfortable. Eventually, the goal is to make something that's not much heavier than a pair of sunglasses."

For many who've tried VR, it's not an issue at all. Hidden Path Entertainment founder Jeff Pobst said he recently spent 15 hours wearing the Rift headset while playing the VR version of his strategy game, "Defense Grid 2."

"I was happy," said Pobst. "I even did it with glasses on and didn't take the headset off to put in my contacts. It all depends on the person and the experience. When there's not a lot of movement and the controls aren't tiring, I think you can be in VR indefinitely."

Prince says he's writing a memoir, performs for NYC audience

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince announced he's writing his memoir, told the audience he was leaving to change clothes and came back to perform songs for the feverish New York City crowd.

Prince said on Friday that his book—with the working title "The Beautiful Ones"—will be released next year by publishing house Spiegel & Grau.

"If you don't mind, I'm going to go home and change real quick and come back and party with y'all," Prince said.

And he did.

He returned to the dark room to perform for the audience, which included Harry Belafonte, Trevor Noah, R&B singer Maxwell, journalists and music industry players. Now in another ensemble, Prince performed on piano from the second level of the venue, as the crowd looked up and sang along to songs like "When Doves Cry," ''If I Was Your Girlfriend," ''Let's Work," ''Hot Thing" and "All the Critics Love U In New York."

"New York, do you want to play with me?" yelled Prince, who was getting help from a DJ when performing. "You know how many hits we got? You know how long we gon' be here? It's time to jam!"

Dancers also were on the second level with Prince, and at one point he put his leg over the railing and stuck his microphone out to the crowd.

Before his performance, the pop icon said Spiegel & Grau made him "an offer I can't refuse."

He added that the book will start with his first memory.

"This is my first (book). My brother Dan is helping me with it. He's a good critic and that's what I need. He's not a 'yes' man at all and he's really helping me get through this," Prince told the audience.

"We're starting from the beginning from my first memory, and hopefully we can go all the way up to the Super Bowl," he said.

At one point Prince asked the crowd: "You all still read books right?"

The audience roared loudly.

According to a press release about the memoir released Friday, "Prince will take readers on an unconventional and poetic journey through his life and creative work." It says the book will include stories about Prince's music and "the family that shaped him and the people, places, and ideas that fired his creative imagination."

AP

In this Nov. 22, 2015 file photo, Prince presents the award for favorite album—soul/R&B at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Affleck says Batman-fan son too young to see new film

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Ben Affleck might be Batman to his 4-year-old fanboy son, Samuel, but that doesn't mean he'll get to see his dad in action in "Batman v Superman" with the rest of the world when it hits theaters next week.

"Four years old is a little young to see this whole movie," Affleck said in a Friday interview. "I don't want him to have nightmares."

Affleck has often said he partly took on the role for his three kids—his son in particular. And from dressing up as the dark knight for Samuel's themed birthday party to tipping the FedEx delivery guy a few bucks to stage a fake fight just because Samuel believes that he's the Joker, it's a part that hasn't gone away for Affleck when the cameras stop rolling, especially with the starry-eyed youngster around.

Samuel has seen his dad in trailers for the film and whatever footage is available online, though, and, according to Affleck, those two-minute clips are basically "his whole attention span anyway."

Affleck said at the very least, his oldest daughter, Violet, 10, can see the PG-13 rated film. In addition to Violet and Samuel, Affleck and Jennifer Garner also have a 7-year-old daughter, Seraphina. The couple separated last year after 10 years of marriage.

AP

This Oct. 10, 2012, file photo shows director and actor Ben Affleck posing for photographers at the premiere of his film Argo in Washington.

Director Rian Johnson's ex-agent sues over 'Star Wars' work

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former agent for the director of the next "Star Wars" film claims in a lawsuit filed Friday that he was cut out of negotiations regarding the blockbuster franchise.

Agent Brian Dreyfuss sued Rian Johnson in Los Angeles Superior Court, seeking 10 percent of the director's "Star Wars" earnings.

Dreyfuss' lawsuit states he helped arrange a meeting between Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy and Johnson in 2012 but that the director told him he wasn't interested in pursuing the company's projects. His suit states he was fired in March 2014, about a year before Johnson confirmed he would direct the eighth film in the "Star Wars" franchise.

Production on the film, which is due to be released in December 2017, began last month.

Dreyfuss began working with Johnson around 2002 and helped him develop his first film, "Brick," the lawsuit states. The agent also encouraged Johnson to direct several episodes of the hit television series "Breaking Bad" and the 2012 film "Looper," which starred Bruce Willis and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

A call to Johnson's publicist was not immediately returned.

Dreyfuss' lawsuit does not state how much he is seeking, but it states he is entitled to Johnson's earnings from other projects, including "Looper."

Dylan O'Brien injured on set of 'Maze Runner' sequel

NEW YORK (AP)—Dylan O'Brien has been injured on the set of "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" during production in British Columbia.

20th Century Fox said in a statement Friday that O'Brien was immediately transferred to a local hospital after being injured Thursday. The studio said shooting will be shut down while the actor recovers.

A representative for O'Brien didn't immediately respond to messages Friday. The 24-year-old is the star of the dystopian science-fiction series. "The Death Cure" is the third in the franchise.

Trish Knight Chernecki, spokeswoman for the provincial occupational health and safety regulator WorkSafeBC, said an investigation officer has been dispatched to the set to investigate. WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers are on-site at a film set at Cache Creek airport—about 215 miles northeast of Vancouver.

James Dashner, the author of the "Maze Runner" book trilogy, posted on Twitter Friday that O'Brien had been hurt but he was going to be OK and his injuries were "not life-threatening in any way."

AP

In this Sept. 15, 2015 photo, Dylan O'Brien attends the premiere of "Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials" in New York.

Decision to circumcize causes festering anger

DEAR ABBY: I am a young man who is currently in college. When I was an infant I was circumcised, and I feel violated that my parents decided to circumcise me without my consent. When the doctor performed the surgery, he took too much off, which causes me pain.

When I was in grade school, I was sexually assaulted by an older classmate, but I feel much more violated from the circumcision because it took a part of me that I can never get back. I am filled with hate and anger toward my parents, even though I know it is unfair to them because they believed they were making the right choice at the time.

My parents know how I feel and are sorry, but I still have these negative feelings toward them because I can't get the procedure undone. Do you have any suggestions how I can overcome my dilemma and build a better relationship with my parents?

CUT SHORT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR C.S.: Yes, I have several. All of them involve talking to doctors. The place to start would be your student health center to determine exactly what is causing your pain and if there is help for it. A doctor there may refer you to a urologist, who may be able to get the problem corrected.

In addition, I urge you to talk to a licensed mental health professional to help you work through your anger because it may be misdirected and a result of the sexual assault you experienced in grade school.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in a small house on a small lot. We don't have children, but love kids. Our problem is our next-door neighbors, whose two elementary school-age boys have limited supervision. They're always in our yard digging and leaving their toys around. Honestly, their own yard is bigger.

They constantly come over asking for candy, and the other day while my husband was working from home, he heard someone trying to open the door and pushing the keypad for entry. Needless to say, it was one of the boys.

I have tried asking them nicely to retrieve their toys, etc., but I'm getting really frustrated and afraid I'm going to lose my patience soon and blow. Please help us.

TRYING TO REMAIN NICE NEIGHBORS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

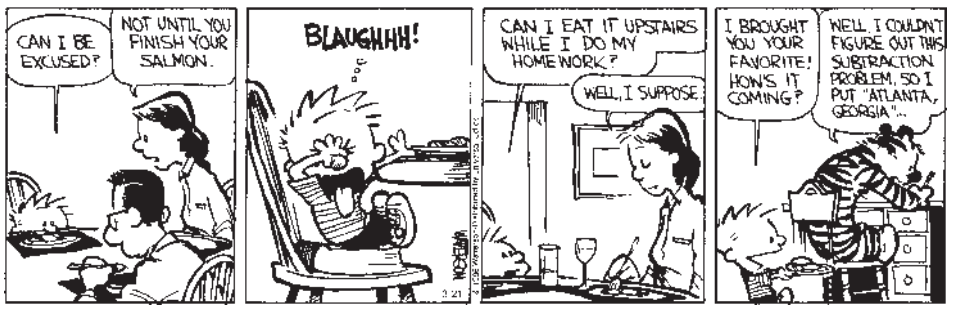
DEAR TRYING: You say you have spoken to the boys, but have you spoken to their parents? That one of the boys would try to gain entry to your house—I assume thinking there was no one there—is worrisome, and the parents should be put on notice about it. (In some neighborhoods the outcome could be dangerous.) If you can't get them to take action, then consider fencing your yard.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

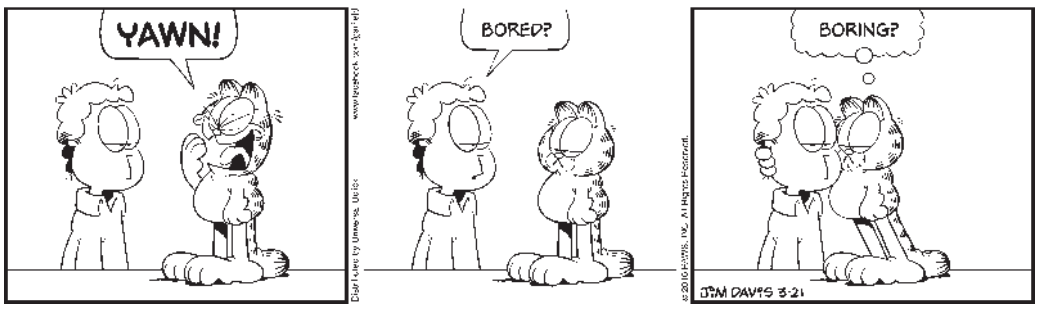
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CAN I BE EXCUSED?
NOT UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR SALMON.
BLAUGHHH!
CAN I EAT IT UPSTAIRS WHILE I DO MY HOMEWORK?
WELL, I SUPPOSE.
I BROUGHT YOU YOUR FAVORITE! HOW'S IT COMING?
WELL, I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THIS SUBTRACTION PROBLEM, SO I PUT "ATLANTA, GEORGIA"...

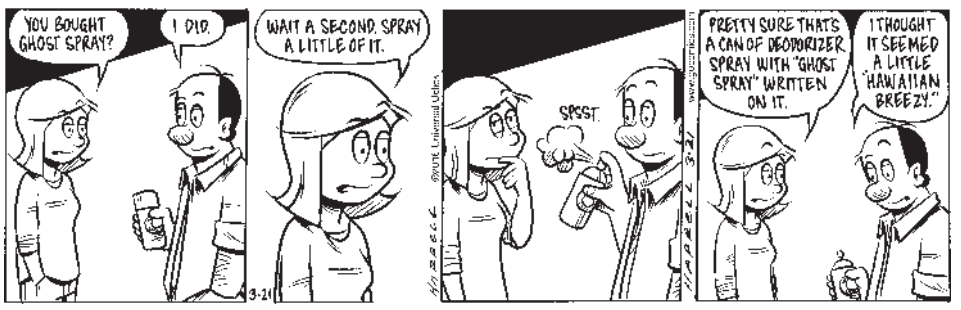
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



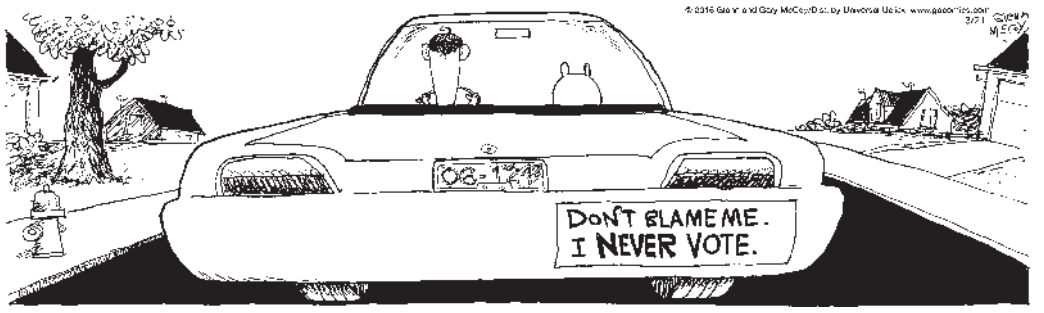
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU BOUGHT GHOST SPRAY?
I DID.
WAIT A SECOND. SPRAY A LITTLE OF IT.
SPSST.
PRETTY SURE THAT'S A CAN OF DEODORIZER SPRAY WITH "GHOST SPRAY" WRITTEN ON IT.
I THOUGHT IT SEEMED A LITTLE "HAWAIIAN BREEZY."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Be a couch potato
4 Brit's raincoat
7 Blue hue
11 Astringent
13 "All the Things You —"
14 Shoe style
15 O'Hara estate
16 Tin Man's need
17 Harvest
18 Soup eater's noise
20 Jai —
22 Urban carrier
24 Lecher's activity
28 Bright purplish-red
32 Tinseltown trophy
33 Physics bit
34 On in years
36 It springs eternal
37 Re ocean motion
39 "Hogwash!"
41 Foxy fellow
43 Trim the grass
44 Part of speech
46 TV-tube gas
50 Green gem
53 Witty comment
55 Kelly of morning TV
56 Rhyming tributes
57 "It's c-c-cold!"
58 Comfy-cozy
59 Evergreens
60 "Yippee!"
61 Pompous sort

DOWN

1 Cisterns
2 Israeli airline
3 Expert
4 Chinese chairman
5 Met melody
6 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
7 Spring rains
8 "— Sera, Sera"
9 Actress Thurman
10 PC program
12 Annual NCAA basketball tournament
19 Faux —
21 Past
23 Story of a lifetime?
25 PC picture
26 Scruff
27 Joel of "Cabaret"
28 Waller or Domino
29 Gas co., for one
30 Buffalo Bill —
31 Priest's garment
35 Weir
38 Privy
40 Bagel topper
42 Flexible green toy
45 "A Doll's House" heroine
47 1492 vessel
48 Piece of work
49 Henpecks
50 Bliss
51 Citric quaff
52 Drops on the lawn
54 Stab

Solution time: 27 mins.

C	A	W	E	D		P	O	P		G	N	U
O	H	A	R	E		I	D	A		R	I	S
P	A	R	M	A		G	O	L	I	A	T	H
		P	A	N	D	E	H		I		R	E
A	K	A		S	R	O		M	A	N	C	R
P	E	T	S		A	N	V	I	L			
T	A	H	I	T	I		I	R	I	S	E	S
		M	E	N	U	S		C	A	M	P	
F	F	T	I	D		R		F		B	J	Y
A	X	E	L		S	C	A	R	A	B		
B	E	N	E	A	T	H		O	R	A	L	S
L	C	D		L	E	I		D	A		E	R
E	S	S		A	W	N		E	I	H	C	S

Friday's answer 3 - 21

1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			12	■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19	■	20		21		■	■	■
■	■	■	22		23	■	24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31	■	32				
33				■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40				
41					42	■	43			■	■	■
■	■	■	44			45	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		■	53		54	■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			
59				■	60			■		61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Broderick, 54; Rosie O'Donnell, 54; Gary Oldman, 58; Timothy Dalton, 72.

Happy Birthday: Finish what you start. Consider your alternatives and figure out your best plan of attack to reach your chosen destination. Make a point to get along with your peers and anyone who can boost your chances of getting ahead. An opportunity to learn something new, expand your awareness or update your appearance should be put into play. Your numbers are 1, 7, 11, 28, 34, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Someone will confuse you with his or her actions. Stay grounded and look at every possibility before you make an assumption. It's better to be safe than sorry. Focus on personal progress. Make your health a priority. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Spend time with the people who make you laugh. Love is on the rise and will lead to a better personal situation. Initiate positive changes by cutting costs and lowering stress. Join forces with someone you respect. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make upgrades to improve your work or personal life. Constant change can get tiring, but it will also allow you to obtain a more diverse picture of the possibilities that exist. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will receive if you give. Offer suggestions to people who share your concerns, and let your creativity shine through when dealing with domestic situations. Romance is encouraged and will have a positive impact on your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you feel restless, make a change that will spark your interest and allow you to show off your talents. Make your pursuits fun and you will create a vessel for others to contribute to. Let your charisma take over. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Express your feelings and your personal plans. You need to find out where you stand so that you can make a move. Recognize what is best for you. Let go of negativity and make a leap toward positive alternatives. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let excessive spending lead to your financial demise. Determine what you really need and what you don't. Make subtle changes that will set you up for a brighter future. Convenience and comfort should be your objectives. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Speak up and protect your interests. Show emotion and let others know exactly where they stand. Offer incentives, but make it clear that nothing you offer will be free. Love will motivate you to reach a lifelong goal. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You become annoyed easily and may irritate others as well. Think before you share your thoughts and don't believe everything you hear. Concentrate on what you can do to improve your surroundings and your health. Don't overindulge. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Check out an unusual opportunity. You will have a chance to invest in something that intrigues you, but consider the consequences first. Joint ventures will not allow you to control the outcome. Romance will improve your personal situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make changes that will affect your income and your vocational direction. Be true to yourself and follow the path that you feel can bring you the greatest satisfaction and highest return. Dig in and focus on your success and future expansion. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Partnerships should be your priority. Whether dealing with someone personally or professionally, check out what you both have to offer and how you can fine-tune your relationship to achieve the most. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, intuitive and thorough. You are cheerful and resourceful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6			4		2			7
		4				1		
	8		3		9		5	
7		6		9		2		3
			2		6			
4		5		3		9		8
	3		1		4		2	
		8				5		
9			5		3			4

Difficulty Level ★ 3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	4	9	5	3	6	7	1
1	9	7	6	4	2	8	3	5
6	3	5	7	8	1	4	2	9
4	7	1	2	9	8	5	6	3
8	2	6	3	1	5	9	4	7
9	5	3	4	6	7	2	1	8
3	1	8	5	2	6	7	9	4
5	4	2	1	7	9	3	8	6
7	6	9	8	3	4	1	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

METAL CORROSION Solution: 7 letters

M	G	Y	S	E	L	U	C	E	L	O	M	E	X	P
I	A	S	O	C	E	V	I	T	A	G	E	N	X	E
C	S	G	T	L	A	G	E	B	T	L	A	S	O	D
R	E	E	N	E	L	L	R	S	S	E	R	O	D	O
O	O	N	A	E	E	A	Y	A	O	X	Y	G	E	N
O	U	O	C	W	S	L	L	B	H	O	O	A	R	A
R	S	B	I	S	A	I	A	I	Ⓘ	C	L	T	U	L
G	M	R	D	T	N	T	U	M	Q	Ⓞ	S	O	S	A
A	U	A	A	I	T	N	E	M	M	U	Ⓝ	M	T	I
N	N	C	T	E	S	N	A	R	S	O	I	Ⓢ	I	B
I	I	Y	R	T	E	Z	E	T	E	L	N	D	N	O
S	M	Y	A	R	I	R	O	N	U	P	A	I	G	R
M	U	B	G	N	S	U	L	F	U	R	P	T	A	C
S	L	Y	C	A	T	H	O	D	E	D	A	O	E	I
E	A	T	M	O	S	P	H	E	R	I	C	L	C	M

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Acid, Alloy, Aluminum, Ammonia, Anode, Atmospheric, Atoms, Battery, Brass, Carbon, Catalyst, Cathode, Charge, Copper, Energy, Gaseous, Ions, Iron, Liquid, Loose, Magnesium, Metals, Microbial, Microorganisms, Molecules, Natural, Negative, Ores, Oxygen, Redox, Rusting, Salinity, Salt, Scaly, Seawater, Steel, Sulfur, Unstable, Zinc

Last Thursday's Answer: Official

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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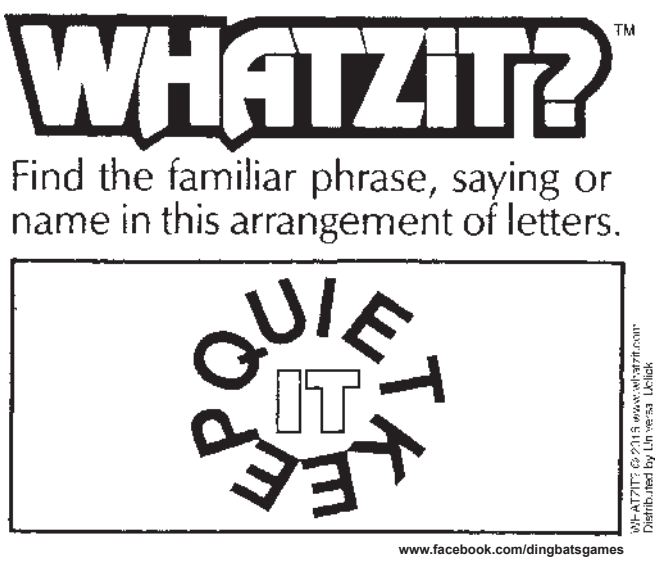
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
KEEP QUIET IT
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70 – Construction Workers
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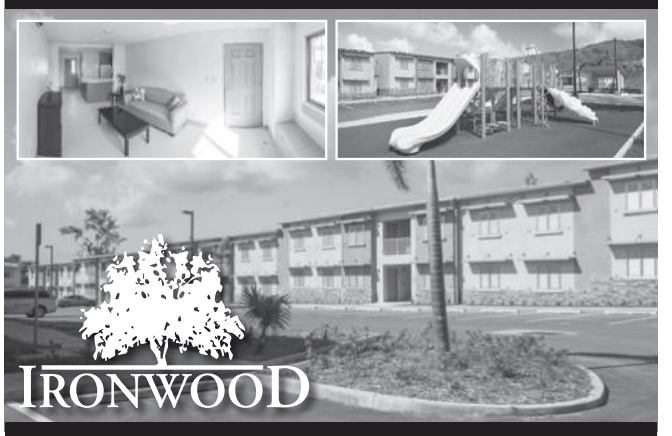
1 General Manager (Accounting): $1,000-1,800/mo. 5 years of managerial experience required. Must have majored in accounting. 10 years of accounting experience required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to hps@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

2 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Butcher: $6.05/hr. High school diploma and at least 3 years experience required. Email resume to dolim@hanmisaipan.com.

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED



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For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.

General Maintenance (3): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. All applicants must be of good health and good moral character must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-3 years of experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.

Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Bldg.1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff,
vs.
JUAN L. EVANGELISTA, Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-1046
[PLEADING TITLE]

SEVENTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 2083-84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Documented No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30pm, at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the General Public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and conditions of sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 10th day of March, 2016.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

1 ACCOUNTANT

Analyzes business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice. Applies principles of accounting, prepare, examine, or analyze accounting records, financial reports to asses accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Well-versed with CNS-CASS accounting systems procedures for freight forwarders. Set performance, goals, oversee the setting of transportation service and monitor revenue. Develop, maintain, and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that complete budgeted costs to actual costs. Operates policies and standards, including determination of safety procedures for handling of dangerous goods, and ensure compliance with the transport regulations. Arrange for shipping documentation and oversee the schedule and dispatching of goods and tracking and monitoring of goods in transit. Knowledgeable in air and ocean tariff and shipping regulations to ensure the corresponding freight services and charges are billed properly to concern customers import and export as well as overseas agents and affiliates. Payroll master prepares federal, state, or local tax returns of individuals, and business establishment. Analyzes financial information detailing assets, liabilities, and capital, and prepares balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports to summarize current and projected company financial position, using calculator or computer. Complies and analyzes financial information to prepare entries to accounts such as general ledger accounts, documenting business transactions. Knowledgeable in operations of accounts payable section & month-end financial reports and establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper documents. Audit contracts, orders and vouchers, and prepares reports to substantiate individual transactions prior to settlement.

Applicants must have Bachelor Degree in Accountancy and at least 5 years of experience in accounting. Must be proficient in Microsoft office applications and accounting software preferably Peachtree accounting system. Experience working according with federal shipping procedures/rules both air and ocean and required training in Basic Air Cargo Forwarding and dangerous goods.

Basic Description:
SunLeader Co. Ltd is primarily engaged in wholesaling that involves selling merchandise to retailers; wholesalers; merchants; industrial; commercial and institutional users. Also engaged in retailing that sells goods to the consumers. Having been established in Saipan in 1997, we do also cargo consolidations from China to Saipan. This constitutes our expertise in the field not to mention being equipped with exceptional warehousing equipment coupled with shipping lines. All these paved the way for us to garner a relevant position in the inventory.

Job description and experience requirement:
Specialized work experience and documentations required for operating. Applicants must be physically able to perform duties of the position. Able to work rotating work schedules which may include holidays and week-ends. Applicants will be required to complete written and oral interview. Interested applicants are required to submit/bring resume to: SUNLEADER CO. LTD., BEACH ROAD GARAPAN SAIPAN MP 96950. Phone: (670) 233-3222. Opening: March 08 to March 23, 2016. Applicant must meet the requirements by closing date of this announcement.

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-16-001
PL-UNGRADED: $777.26 B/W
Position: Assistant Sergeant at Arms
Opening Date: March 15, 2016
Closing Date: March 31, 2016
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:
- Responsible for the safety & security of members of the Legislature;
- Attends all session, public hearings and any other legislative meeting as designated by the Presiding Officer;
- Records and maintains the Chamber's legislative meetings as scheduled and maintains order and security during sessions and meetings;
- Delivers official documents, serves subpoenas, and performs other duties as instructed by the Presiding Officer, official rules, or other legislative authority;
- Prepares the chamber prior to scheduled legislative meetings and maintains its security during the interim;
- Inspects and operates the chamber's sound/video system and responsible for the maintenance of the chamber;
- Records and maintains visitor's log sheet on a daily basis; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:
- Must have completed a Law Enforcement Academy and undergo and complete yearly required certifications pursuant to CNMI law; and
- Must undergo a complete Psychological Evaluation;
- Have knowledge of rules, general procedures, customs and courtesies of the CNMI Legislature and general principles of law enforcement; procedures and techniques of maintaining order, security and protocol of a legislative body; and
- Maintains good working conduct and is willing to work regularly after normal working hours.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. All applicants may be subject to further interviews and examinations(i.e. writing assignment) to determine qualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed, postmarked no later than the closing date to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Receptionist/ Front Desk Clerk

With minimum 2 years experience
Salary will commensurate with applicant's knowledge and experience

Interested applicants may pick up an application form at H.S Lee Construction, Co. Inc. office, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; located at the second floor of Highway Express Auto Shop Building in Middle Road.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

All Around Auto Mechanic

- With minimum 2 years of experience
- Salary will commensurate for applicant's knowledge and experience

Interested applicants may pick up an application form from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Ground floor building of D&W Saipan Inc. dba Highway Express Auto Shop in Middle Road.

L & F INC. JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Accountant - $6.30
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- Knowledge in Peach Tree software
- 5 years of experience required

Building Repairer Maintenance - $6.05
- 5 years experience

(2) Maintenance Repairer - $6.05
- 5 years experience in Rod/Reel and Gun repairs

Administrative Assistant - $6.05
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration
- With experience in bookkeeping
- 5 years experience required

Applicants must be able to work flexible hours and must have a valid CNMI driver's license.

Please email resume to info@fishingtacklesaipan.com no later than March 28, 2016.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

PKM Corporation
DBA: Saipan Store II

(2) Supervisor - $6.25/hr.
(3) Cashier - $6.05/hr.
(3) Stocker - $6.05/hr.
(2) Manager - $6.50/hr.

For interested applicants, please call 233-0205

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

American Trading Saipan Corp.
DBA: Twins Supermarket

(4) Cashier - $6.05/hr.
(2) Store Manager - $6.25/hr.
(1) General Manger - $6.75/hr.
(3) Stocker - $6.05/hr.
(2) Supervisor - $6.25/hr.

For interested applicants, please call 235-8989

WANTED

Cement Supervisor
Salary: $7.73 per hour
Must have cement handling equipment experience

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc., Puerto Rico

Cement Laborer
Cement handling equipment experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals
Wages based on experience

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of two (2) years hospitality experience. Must have the ability in providing hotel guests with above and beyond service to ensure their experience will be worth remembering. Must have cheerful personality in meeting guest upon arrival and bids them farewell as they leave. Must be able to make strong and accurate decisions, negotiations and problem solving skills. Must have cashiering experience and computer literacy. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent Leadership with written and oral communication skills is necessary. Must have the ability to manage all aspects of the Front Office operations, including a Guest Relation, Call Center, and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to set Front Office Budget, monitor Profit and Loss. Must have the ability to set an upsell program and work as part of the Yield Management team in maximize revenue for the hotel. Must computer knowledge on as PMS-Property Management System, Opera. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SEA INFORMATION / CASHIER
Must be able to pass American Red Cross First Aid/CPR certification courses. Applicant must possess strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills. The position requires a minimum of six (6) months of previous work experience in a cash handling position. The ability to comprehend and speak Japanese, Korean or Russian language is preferred but not required. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. The applicant must be able to stand for long periods of time. The applicant must be able to work on a flexible schedule which includes early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) SEA SCHEDULER / CLUBMATE
Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard with a minimum of three years of experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Word and be proficient with Microsoft Excel, with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the S.E.A Scheduler. Applicants must be versed in the operations and rotations of the S.E.A department. Position will be asked to work various shifts in the hotels' waterpark, so sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

(1) SALES & MARKETING MANAGER – JAPAN MARKET
Minimum of three (3) years of Sales experience in the hotel industry is required. Four (4) years College degree preferred. Proficiency in Japanese language (verbal, written, reading and understanding) as well as Japanese MS Office, Opera System, Site Minder and Japanese hotel booking systems is required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(1) WEB MARKETING MANAGER / GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Must have experience in reviewing and analyzing web analytics tools; Must be proficient in the use of Apple MC, MS Office, HTML and web design; Must be proficient in graphic design software in a MAC environment using: Adobe Photoshop Creative Suite 6.0, Adobe Indesign and Adobe Illustrator ; Must have strong organizational skills along with the ability to create high visual impact design. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, graveyard shifts and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-005

Replace and Repair Termite Damaged Lumber and Lighting Fixtures in the Division of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Warehouse

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Replace and Repair Termite Damaged Lumber and Lighting Fixtures in the Division of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Warehouse,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 11, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 30, 2016 , 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 01, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-004".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 15, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 15, 2016,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 15, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 25, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 27, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on April 15, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ **RICHARD B. SEMAN**
Secretary of Department of Land and Natural Resources

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For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

Spurs beat Warriors in showdown, stay perfect at home

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs continued their dominance at home, even against the NBA's most dominant team.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and 13 rebounds, and the Spurs beat the Golden State Warriors 87-79 on Saturday night to remain perfect at the AT&T Center this season and extend their home winning streak over the defending champions to 33 straight regular-season games.

The Spurs held the Warriors to a season-low point total, using a bruising defense to slow Stephen Curry in a tense showdown between the league's top two teams.

"They're a great team, they're the bar in the NBA and it just felt good to win tonight," Aldridge said.

San Antonio (59-10) moved within three games of Golden State (62-7) for the league's top seed with two meetings remaining in April.

Kawhi Leonard added 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, who have won 44 straight at home in the regular season, tied for the second-longest streak in NBA history with the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls.

San Antonio did it by having Tim Duncan come off the bench for only the third time in his career to counter Golden State's smaller lineup.

The Spurs normally make opposing teams react to what they are doing, but they have never faced a team like the Warriors. Golden State can still set the single-season record with 73 victories if it closes the season 11-2.

"No, they're just a different type of team," San Antonio guard Danny Green said. "There's a reason they were champions last year and the No. 1 team right now. They're an anomaly. They have everybody that can shoot big baskets for them."

That made Golden State's futility Saturday that much more surprising. The Spurs held Curry to 14 points while limiting him to 1-for-12 shooting on 3-pointers.

"Tonight we executed well on the defensive end, but offensively I didn't allow us to get comfortable offensively," Curry said. "I've got to play a lot better, manage the game a lot better, especially if certain shots that I normally make aren't falling. You've got to be able to adjust and find different ways to impact the way."

Curry was continually harassed by Green, who blocked two shots while holding the MVP front-runner to 4-for-18 shooting.

"I thought Steph missed a few early that he normally makes and he never really got in a rhythm and that happens," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

Curry missed his first seven 3-point attempts and was blocked for the first time this season from long range when Green rose to stuff the mercurial guard 2 minutes into the second quarter.

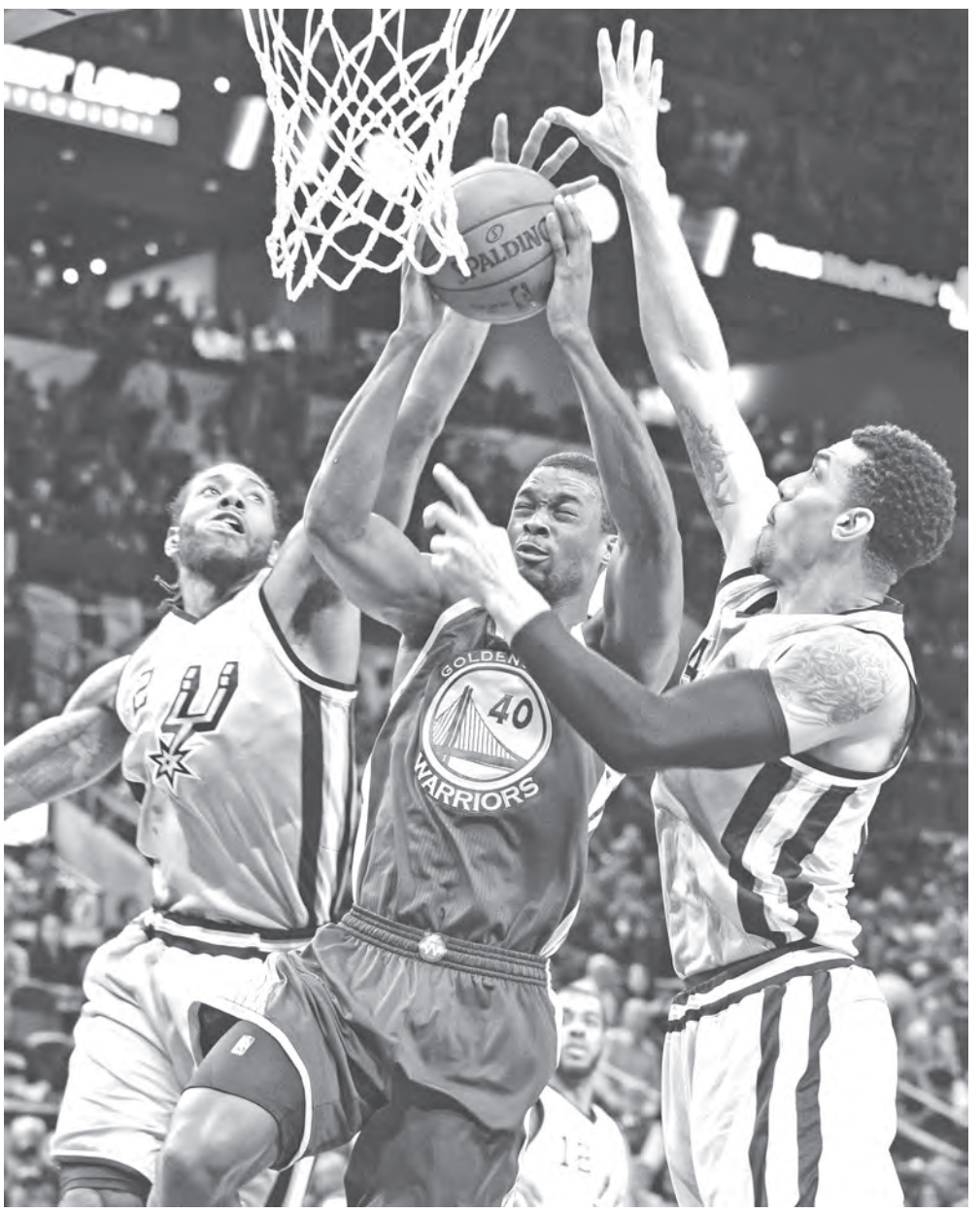
Golden State had seven turnovers in the first half and finished with 11 in remaining winless in San Antonio during the regular season since 1997, the season before Duncan was drafted.

Klay Thompson added 15 points for Golden State and Draymond Green had 11.

The Warriors were without starting center Andrew Bogut, forcing Kerr to start Draymond Green at center alongside Harrison Barnes and Brandon Rush.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich opted to start Boris Diaw at center in place of Duncan and the change in starting lineup was beneficial immediately, as the 6-foot-8 Frenchman made his first three attempts as San Antonio took an 8-5 lead.

The Spurs were then able to slow down the Warriors, limiting the NBA's highest-scoring team to 37 points in the first half.



AP

Golden State Warriors forward Harrison Barnes (40) attempts to shoot between San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard (2), and Danny Green during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 19, 2016, in San Antonio.

Heat 122, Cavaliers 101

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 24 points to surpass 20,000 for his career, Josh Richardson added 19 and Miami never trailed in beating Cleveland.

Goran Dragic had 18 points and 11 assists for Miami, Joe Johnson also scored 18 and Hassan Whiteside finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Miami outrebounded Cleveland 42-26 and led by as many as 33 at one point.

LeBron James had 26 points for Cleveland and sat out the final 15 minutes, the outcome already long been decided when his night ended. Richard Jefferson scored 20 and Kyrie Irving had 14 for the Cavaliers, who have lost 11 consecutive games in Miami.

Thunder 115, Pacers 111

In Indianapolis, Russell Westbrook had his second triple-double in two nights, Kevin Durant had 33 points and 13 rebounds, and Oklahoma City overcame Paul George's 45 points to beat Indiana.

Westbrook finished with 14 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists, his 14th triple-double of the season. Durant nearly had one, too, finishing with eight assists to lead Oklahoma City to its fourth straight win.

George added seven rebounds and four assists but missed a 3-pointer with 5.9 seconds left that could have tied it.

Nuggets 101, Hornets 93

In Charlotte, D.J. Augustin scored 24 points on 8-of-11 shooting, and Denver snapped a three-game road losing streak with a victory over Charlotte.

Darrell Arthur and Gary Harris added 13 points apiece for the Nuggets, while Nikola Jokic had 11 points and 14 rebounds before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter.

Nicolas Batum had 24 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Hornets, who lost at home for only the third time in the last 15 games. Jeremy Lin had 16 points and Kemba Walker added 15 for Charlotte.

Grizzlies 13, Clippers 102

In Memphis, Zach Randolph recorded his first career triple-double with 28 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, Tony Allen added 22 points and Memphis beat the Clippers.

Randolph, returning from a seven-game absence due to a sore knee, was 10 of 19 from the floor, while Allen was 7 of 10. Ray McCallum added 14 for Memphis, including seven in the fourth quarter. Lance Stephenson had 12 points and JaMychal Green finished with 11 as Memphis snapped a four-game losing streak.

Hawks 109, Rockets 97

In Atlanta, Al Horford scored 22 points and streaking Atlanta continued to feast on Western Conference teams by beating Michael Beasley and Houston.

The Hawks have won five straight and eight of nine. They've also won six straight against Western Conference teams.

Beasley led Houston with a season-high 30 points, including 12 of the team's 14 fourth-quarter points. James Harden had 25 and Dwight Howard had eight points and 17 rebounds.

Bulls 92, Utah 85

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 22 points to lead shorthanded Chicago past Utah, snapping the Jazz's four-game winning streak.

Taj Gibson had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Nikola Mirotic added 15 points for Chicago.

Rose was 10 for 15 from the field as the Bulls won their second straight. Chicago (35-33) remained in eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Wizards 99, Knicks 89

In Washington, John Wall had 24 points and 10 assists, and Washington rallied from an 18-point, second-quarter deficit to beat New York for its fourth straight victory.

Marcin Gortat added 15 points and 11 rebounds, while Markieff Morris added 17 points as all five Washington starters scored in double figures.

It was the largest comeback win of the season for the Wizards, who began Saturday 10th in the Eastern Conference, but just 1 1/2 games out of the eighth and final playoff spot.

Pistons 115, Nets 103

In Auburn Hills, Anthony Tolliver scored all 17 of his points in the second half and Aron Baynes scored 17 of his 21 in the fourth quarter to lift Detroit over Brooklyn.

The Pistons trailed by six in the third and were in danger of what would have been a terrible home loss, but they were eventually able to take advantage of Brook Lopez's absence. The Brooklyn big man missed the game with a virus.

SIDEBAR

Wade reaches milestone

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade got a hug from his close friend LeBron James before the game, a milestone in the third quarter, a rest for the entire fourth quarter and an easy win to enjoy when it was over.

That's a night to savor.

Wade scored 24 points and became the 41st player in NBA history to reach 20,000, rookie Josh Richardson added 19 and the Miami Heat led wire-to-wire on their way to beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 122-101 on Saturday.

"I've been through a lot of adversity," Wade said. "I've had a lot of injuries in my career that a lot of people would never have come back from—and I have, and I continue to keep going, 13 years later. And I thank my teammates, the ones that are here and the ones that aren't here, because to get 20,000-plus points you've got to shoot a lot of shots."

"I think the pace, we couldn't keep up with it tonight," James said. "Whether it was our fifth game in seven nights, we couldn't keep up with their pace."

Cleveland had one real burst during the game, an 11-0 run in the second quarter that cut a 15-point Heat lead down to 40-36. Other than that, it was all Miami.

Richardson continued his brilliant play of late, the rookie making all three of his 3-point tries in the second quarter to help Miami take control for good. Wade went into the locker room at halftime with 19,997 career points, and the only drama at that point was when he would get the milestone basket.

The answer came quickly.

Wade, who came into the game 13 shy of the milestone, scored a minute into the third to get to 19,999, then got a short floater in the lane to drop moments later. He got a standing ovation at the next dead ball, and a video tribute later in the quarter.

"It was great to see," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You don't want to be so jaded in this business that you don't take time to recognize the special moments. Dwyane's the face of the franchise. He's done what he's been able to do at a high level, for a long time, consistently."

Browns host free-agent quarterback RG3

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Browns are taking another look at Robert Griffin III.

The free-agent quarterback visited on Saturday with the Browns, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. Griffin, who was released earlier this month by Washington, met with new Cleveland coach Hue Jackson and members of the front office at the team's facility in Berea, Ohio, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not disclosing its plans during free agency.

Four years ago, the Browns were enamored with RG3 and wanted to take him in the draft. However, the club couldn't work out a trade to move up and were outbid by the Redskins, who selected Griffin with the No. 2 overall pick.

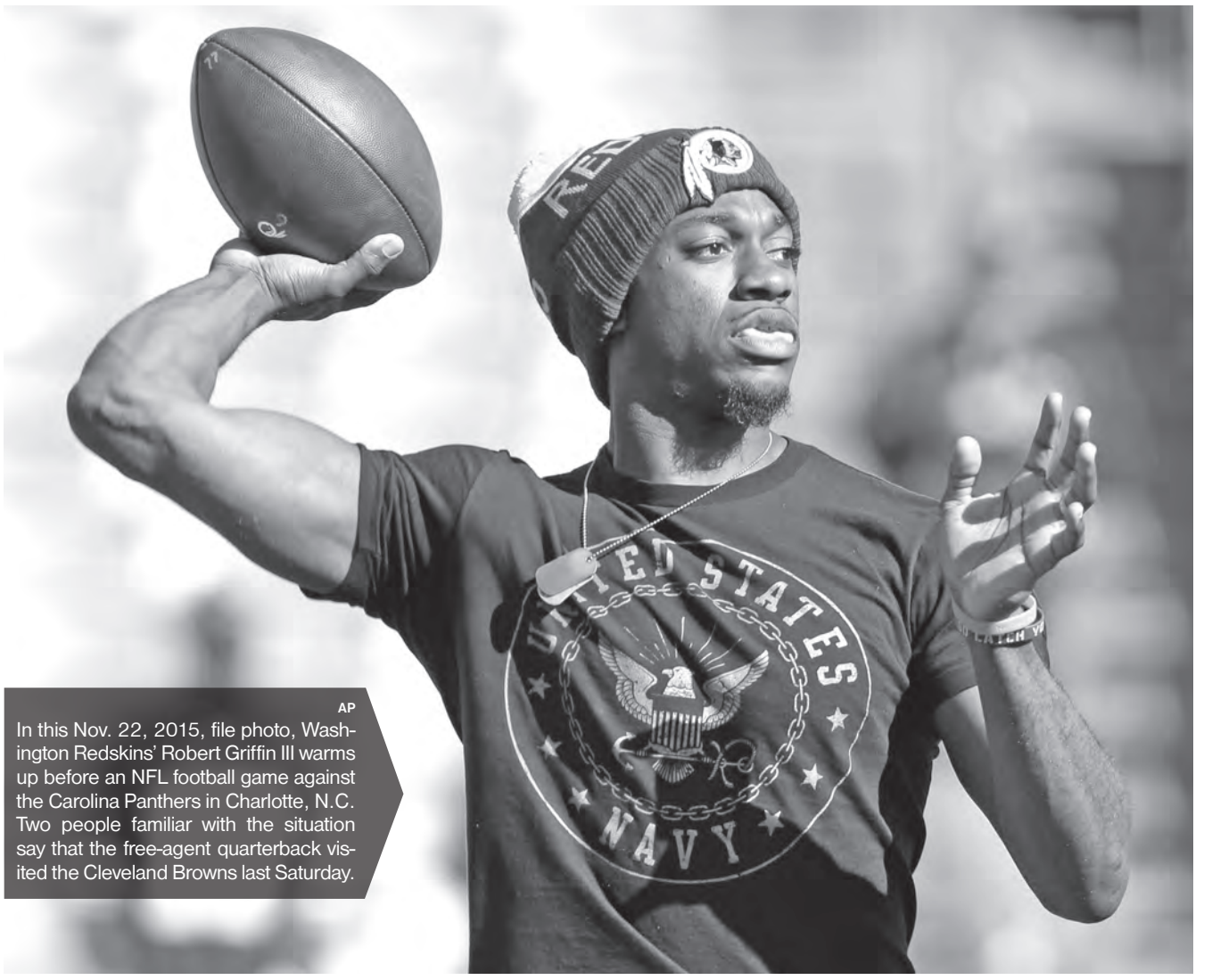
With his running ability and rocket arm, Griffin took the NFL by storm. He led the Redskins to the NFC East title as a rookie before sustaining a serious knee injury in the playoffs. He was never the same player again and his career has been in steady decline.

The Browns could offer a chance for a revival. Cleveland's quarterback situation has been in shambles for years. The team recently waived Johnny Manziel, a former first-round draft pick whose off-field antics overshadowed any progress in two seasons. The Browns have the second pick in this year's draft and are considering California's Jared Goff and North Dakota State's Carson Wentz.

But if the team doesn't want to go in that direction, Griffin could be a plug-the-gap quarterback while the Browns develop a younger player. Josh McCown is currently the leading candidate to start at QB for the Browns in 2016.

Griffin went 14-21 as a starter for Washington. He passed for 8,097 yards with 40 touchdowns and 23 interceptions. He also rushed for 1,480 yards and eight TDs.

In Texas, the search for bargains in free agency by the Cowboys has moved on to their pass rush.



AP

In this Nov. 22, 2015, file photo, Washington Redskins' Robert Griffin III warms up before an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C. Two people familiar with the situation say that the free-agent quarterback visited the Cleveland Browns last Saturday.

Dallas signed restricted free agent Benson Mayowa of Oakland to a three-year, $8.55 million offer sheet Friday, two people with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press.

The Raiders have five days to match the offer to their defensive end. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the signing wasn't announced.

The Cowboys have been in the bottom third in the NFL in sacks the past three seasons, and are unlikely to bring back Greg Hardy after a tumultuous season filled with distractions related to his domestic violence case in North Carolina. He also had declining production late in the year.

After missing out on several unrestricted free agents, including former St. Louis end Chris Long, the Cowboys turned to a fourth-year player with two sacks in 30 games in the 24-year-old Mayowa.

The 6-foot-3, 240-pound product of Idaho played two games as an undrafted rookie free agent with Seattle in 2013. He was cut at the end of training camp a year later and spent two seasons with the Raiders.

A generally weak pass rush was among several reasons the Dallas defense struggled to make game-changing plays in a 4-12 season played mostly without quarterback Tony Romo, who broke his left collarbone twice.

Dallas could also address the need with the No. 4 pick in next month's draft.

DeMarcus Lawrence emerged as the team's sacks leader with eight in his second season. He struggled as a rookie second-round pick in 2014, the same way Randy Gregory did last season. Gregory won't have the benefit of a full second season because of a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

The Cowboys have concentrated mostly on their own free agents this season, highlighted by the return of linebacker Rolando McClain and cornerback Morris Claiborne on relatively inexpensive deals.

Dallas still has salary cap space after restructuring the contracts of left tackle Tyron Smith and defensive tackle Tyrone Crawford.

Union 'monitoring' LaRoche case, no decision on grievance

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP)— The head of the Major League Baseball players' union said Saturday there's no decision yet on whether to file a grievance on behalf of Chicago White Sox first baseman Adam LaRoche.

The 36-year-old LaRoche retired on Tuesday after he said he was told by the team president to cut down on clubhouse access for his 14-year-old son.

"I think what you've seen is everyone trying to get a feel for what happened here and what tomorrow may look like," union chief Tony Clark said after a meeting with San Diego Padres players at spring training. "All I can tell you is we're monitoring what's going on."

Clark said he's been in contact with LaRoche, but he deflected a question of whether the union knows if LaRoche had a verbal agreement with the White Sox to allow his son, Drake, to be around the team.

Clark did say the union is interested in separate rules and policies set by clubs, especially if they violate baseball's labor contract.

"We are interested in those, particularly when we find out about them," Clark said. "And we're always concerned about any individual agreement violates the collective bargaining agreement as a whole. That's where we end up engaging in conversations where we may not otherwise, when it has the potential to affect a much larger group."

LaRoche posted a statement to his Twitter account on Friday saying that after he signed his two-year, $25 million deal with the White Sox before the 2015 season, "we reached an agreement" that would allow his son to spend time with the team.

LaRoche said while he hit just .207 with 12 homers last season, there was never a problem with his son being around the team.

But LaRoche said White Sox executive Kenny Williams recently told him to scale back the time his son spent in the clubhouse, and later "I was told told not to bring him to the ballpark at all."

LaRoche instead chose to retire, walking away from $13 million owed this season.

White Sox ace Chris Sale and other teammates have come to LaRoche's defense. Sale has hung Drake's uniform outside his locker at spring training. Sale later accused Williams of lying to the team about the reasons for the move.

Clark acknowledged "there are strong opinions" about the situation, but said the union needed to gather more information.

Day leads by 2 at Bay Hill and wants to stretch it

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)— With each birdie, Rory McIlroy moved closer to making the weekend at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. And then set his sights on going even closer to the lead.

But he didn't have to look far to realize that would be an issue.

Jason Day was playing in the group ahead of him, and he was putting on another clinic at Bay Hill on Friday. Day ran off seven birdies, kept a clean card and shot a 7-under 65 to build a two-shot lead going into the weekend.

Henrik Stenson was two shots behind. Justin Rose was three shots behind. Both shot a 66, a strong day of work, except that the leader was even better.

Day was at 13-under 131.

"I was looking at Jason in front of me and I was thinking if I could maybe get within six going into the weekend. And now it's 11," said McIlroy, who was at 2-under 142. "Even playing well, I'm not sure that's quite going to be enough that far behind Jason."

But this tournament is far from over.

Stenson was eight shots behind when he teed off Friday afternoon and stayed in the game.

"You can't let it be frustrating that you're eight shots back," Stenson said. "He played great, and you've just got to go and do the same, and I managed to do that."

The third round Saturday will be in threesomes off both tees to finish early ahead of storms in the forecast.

Day swears he was grinding on the golf course, even if he might have a hard time convincing anyone of that.

Playing with a one-shot lead in the morning, he two-putted for birdies on the par 5s and made a 35-foot birdie on the 17th, and then he added four birdies on the front nine and finished with another birdie from 35 feet.

He only came close to making bogey once, but made a 10-footer on the par-5 fourth.

"You can't coast it in," Day said. "You got to keep pushing forward. If you can beat the field by so many shots, try and keeping adding to that."

Seems like a simple formula.

Stenson had the lead at Bay Hill last year with four holes to go until he three-putted for bogey on the 15th and three-putted for par on the 16th. Now he appears to be back for more. The Swede loves that Bay Hill requires good iron play, and that's his strength. And his putter is cooperating.

He now has eight straight rounds under par at Bay Hill, and 15 out of his last 16.

Rose also has some history at Bay Hill. He was runner-up in 2013 to Tiger Woods (though he was never closer than two shots in the final round), and he finished third (two shots behind Martin Laird) in 2011.

Rose also hopes he has one slice of history on his side. He already has won the Memorial, hosted by Jack Nicklaus. He'd love to win Palmer's tournament, too.

Arsenal beats Everton, keeps alive fading EPL challenge

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—Arsenal responded to its elimination from two cup competitions by beating Everton 2-0 in the Premier League through first-half goals by Danny Welbeck and Alex Iwobi on Saturday to keep alive its fading title challenge.

It was a comfortable victory for Arsenal at the end of a week when its chances of winning silverware this season virtually disappeared after losses to Watford and Barcelona in the FA Cup and Champions League, respectively.

Everton produced another head-scratching display at Goodison Park, with Welbeck running through unchecked to score in the seventh minute and Iwobi marking his first league start with his first league goal in the 42nd.

Arsenal moved eight points behind first-place Leicester, which visits Crystal Palace later Saturday, but still needs the leaders and second-place Tottenham to collapse in the final eight games to stand a chance of winning a first league title since 2004.

The result came as no surprise, given Everton's seven home defeats in the league already this season and a dismal record of only one win in its previous 17 meetings with Arsenal. And so assured was Arsenal's performance that manager Arsene Wenger must wonder how his team had conspired to win only one of its last eight games in a familiar early-spring implosion at a crunch time of the season.

Arsenal looked dangerous every time it got in behind Everton's midfield, which happened regularly in the first half. Welbeck had already hit the post -- via a ricochet from an Everton clearance -- when he ran onto Sanchez's throughball, rounded goalkeeper Joel Robles and slotted into an empty net

Iwobi wasted a gilt-edged chance by shooting straight at Robles and Sanchez had a strong penalty appeal turned down before Arsenal made it 2-0 by exposing Everton's creaking defense.

AP

Everton's Ramiro Funes Mori, left, clashes with Arsenal's Hector Bellerin, during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Arsenal, at Goodison Park, in Liverpool, England, Saturday March 19, 2016.

Tuesday League billiards enters semis phase

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Tuesday League enters the semifinals phase with the Jokers Bar & Grill-sponsored teams favored to get the two finals berth. The knockout phase is set tomorrow at Jokers Bar & Grill in Garapan.

Jokers Bar is assured of the crown as three of the four teams it sponsored finished 1-2-3 after 20 weeks of competition. The Jonny's Titans, which prevented a Jokers sweep after the StraighBlackBall came in fifth, face a daunting task of clinching one of the two finals spots as they will take on top seed Jokers Voyagers.

The winners of the semis matches will battle for the Tuesday League crown next week with the losers clashing for third place.

The Voyagers compiled a league best 171-89 record, while the Titans tallied a 124-136 mark. Not even a 10-3 win over the Crazy 8 (102-158) last week could help the StraightBlackBall secure a playoff berth, as it finished only with a 120-140 card.

The Hustlers (136-124), which finished second will face fellow Jokers-backed squad Destroyers (127-133) in the other Final Four pairing.

The Voyagers, despite already assured of a semis spot, still went all out after posting a 8-5 decision over the Destroyers, while the Titans pulled off a 7-6 triumph against the Hustlers.

In the Thursday League, which has three weeks left, the top ranking remains a toss-up between the Jokers Homeboyz and National Alamo Car Rental. The Homeboyz and Alamo are 1-2 in the standings with the former enjoying a two-game lead at 128-93 against the latter's 126-95.

Round two of their much-awaited match up will be on March 31. Alamo had a close win in their first meeting, 8-7, last Jan. 21.

The Jokers Wild-Boyz (124-97) and the Wild Bill's Wild Wild West (112-109) are third and fourth but the Wild Bill's Rack 'N' Roll, at 95-125, could still secure the last semis berth if it compiles enough wins and its sister team piles up losses.

Games last Thursday had the Alamo and Wild Wild West squeezing out similar 7-6 wins over the Rack 'N' Roll and the WildBoyz and the Homeboyz trouncing Jonny's Team SCS (78-143), 8-5.

PIC Hafa Adai 5K gets support from PTC, again

Pacific Trading Company is once again sponsoring the PIC Hafa Adai 5K which will take place on April 9.

The 5K fundraiser will help benefit the Northern Marianas Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"PTC is proud to partner up once again with another PIC signature event," said PTC general manager Charles Cepeda.

For this year's event, PTC and Pepsi will be sponsoring the islands biggest Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament after the 5K. In this winner-take-all challenge, Pepsi has ponied up $500 cash for the overall winner.

"The Pepsi and PIC partnership continues to strengthen with Pepsi's backing of the Rock Paper Scissors Tournament. May the strongest hand win" said Cepeda.

"The Pepsi Rock, Paper, Scissors Challenge is open to each and every paid participant of the 5K," Sports, Entertainment and Activities director Glenn Policare said. "Once participants have finished the 5K, our team of volunteers will be organizing individuals into groups. Players will pair up, back to back, and battle it out for supremacy. Winners move on round by round."

"The odds of winning at Rock, Paper, Scissors six, seven or even eight times in a row is astronomical," said event director Keoni Ichihara. "I can't wait to see who will come out on top."

The 5KM will start and finish at PIC Saipan and will feature five different coloring stations along the Beach Road route. Participants are encouraged to wear white attire so that the full effect of the coloring stations can be seen post-race. Volunteers will be celebrating each runner's arrival by greeting them with "holi powder." This is a biodegradable mixture of corn starch and food coloring.

The five color stations (blue, pink, green, yellow and red) along with two water stations will line Beach Road starting at PIC and stretch all the way to Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

Entry fees are only $10. The first 500 paid entries will receive a limited edition event t-shirt. Entry forms for the Hafa Adai 5K can be found at the PIC lobby, Triple J Motors on Beach Road, Gold's Gym, The American Red Cross and Boarderline in Garapan. For more information, please contact Ichihara at 237-5147. ***(PR)***

KAGMAN

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Rabasto 10, Espinosa 8, Rivera 4, Ito 2.

CES 72 — Teregeyo 26, Duenas 14, Rangamar 8, Norita 4, Lizama 4, Hernandez 4, Jaga 2, Andrew 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-2, 314-12, 61-49, 76-72.

Second Game

Kagman 71 — Palino 18, Sakisat 16, Quan 10, Nakamura 7, Moses 4, Magofna 4, Jones 4, Rosario 4, Muna 4.

Run 'N Gun 54 — Cristobal 11, Sablan 10, Corja 7, Atalig 6, Snech 4, Castillo 3, Kabiriel 2, Francisco 2, Iba 1.

Scoring by quarters: 24-12, 43-27, 59-40, 71-54.

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overall with his 15:53 and was followed by Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu (16:31), SSC's Mark Jainier Chavez (21:57), and Tsunami Saipan's Arman Rechucher (22:01).

In the girls 9 to 10 age group, Ashley had the fastest time at 15:54, which was good for No. 5 overall. She defeated teammates Nanaka Watanabe (16:10) and Kana Suzuki (21:52) and SSC's Jinie Thompson (18:40) and Eunice Pagaduan (24:02).

In the longer 1.3K course, Lennosuke duplicated the feat of his younger brother Jinnosuke, as the former also topped the boys 11 to 12 age group. The older Suzuki completed the race under the 20-minute mark with his 18:09. Palau's Jericho Maido and Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones also timed in less than 20 minutes after recording 18:28 and 19:40, respectively, to round out the Top 3.

Other finishers in the group were Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio (20:18) and SSC's Rintaro Miyawaki (22:53), Akira Kadokura (25:27) and Dominic Zedde (27:18).

In the girls 11 to 12, Tsunami Saipan had a 1-2 finish with Aika Watanabe coming in at first with her 19:57 and Sophia Gauran ranked at second after tallying 21:25. Gauran nearly lost the runner-up award, as she stopped along the shore and looked back at eventual third placer Coume Kaga of SSC instead of sprinting to the finish line. Kaga was just a second behind Gauran. Palau's Lolmei Uong and SSC's Ayaka Sato were the other finishers, registering similar times of 30:03.

In the shortest race of the day, the 600m swim, Aasish bested six other entries in the boys U8 division. The younger Dangol timed in at 12:56 to prevail against SSC's Dino Sato (13:21), Kouki Watanabe (15:23), Kengo Sato (17:02), Cojiro Kaga (17:28), and Moshe Sikkel (20:44).

In the girls U8, Andrei Keith Lynn Chavez was the top finisher after clocking in at 13:40 and defeating Tsunami Saipan's Maria Batallones (14:18) and fellow SSC member Savita Sikkel (15:12).

Meanwhile, results in the longest race—the 2.5-kilometer course—were unavailable at press time and winners will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

in the last three innings, while holding IT&E to one run in the final half of the match to steal the victory.

T.J. Rogilifoi reached home off an error at the top of the fourth and the Ol'Aces got another run from an IT&E miscue to grab the upper hand. Ken Kaipat, who relieved started Shane Borja, then kept the Ol'Aces' shaky lead after striking out IT&E's second and third batter and grounding out the fourth one to leave leadoff batter Keith Aldan stranded at first base at the bottom of the fourth.

IT&E also failed to score in the fifth with Kaipat getting three more Ks, while the Ol'Aces added one run for a 6-4 cushion with Andre Macaranas making it home off a wild pitch. The Ol'Aces went on to gain more distance at the top of the last inning, 8-4, thanks to Kaipat's RBI single and a sacrifice out from Lufo Babauta.

At the bottom of the last, IT&E remained in contention when Aldan reached home off a catches error with only one out. However, that was IT&E's last stand, as Kaipat, who struck out leadoff batter Pat Blas, also brought down Ray Babauta and Jesse Stole.

The Ol'Aces needed the late push to beat IT&E as the former were limited to one run apiece from the first to the third inning. Babauta had an RBI single in the first inning, while Nathan Aizon hit an RBI double in the second, and Kaipat scored off an IT&E error in the third.

IT&E was without a run in the first two innings, but moved on top after a four-run bottom of the third, highlighted by Patrick Celis' two-run homer. IT&E got the two other runs from the Ol'Aces' miscues.

In the final Majors division match last Saturday, the Comets shut down the Falcons, 4-0.

Bing Nakamura pitched in no relief for the Comets in six innings and recorded 13 strikeouts. He gave up only three hits and walked one. Nakamura foiled the Falcons' bid to hit the board in the last inning as he picked up a grounder and threw to first for the last out, leaving Kyle Kapileo stranded at third base.

The Comets scored all their four runs off the Falcons' booboos with Sneak Sumor registering two of them.

2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, left, listens to CNMI tennis coach Jeff Race after getting a special recognition from Northern Marianas Sports Association during the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held early this month at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

NMSA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athletes of the Month and their representatives pose for a group photo.

NMSA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athletes of the Month pose with their certificates. The two male athletes represented their sisters.

The CNMI delegates to the 2015 Pacific Mini Games in Papua New Guinea acknowledge the recognition they got from NMSA.

Sports Administrator of the Year and CNMI Hall of Famer Kurt Barnes, and the new Hall of Famer Tony C. Camacho pose for a photo after the awards ceremony.

CNMI Hall of Famer Sonny Flores is congratulated by NMSA member Jeff Race.

The CNMI delegates to the 2015 Pacific Mini Games in Papua New Guinea are recognized at the awards ceremony

Elena poses with the cut-out photo of her daughter, Victoria Chentsova–the Female Athlete of the Year.

Spurs beat Warriors in showdown, stay perfect at home

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Sports

Browns host free-agent quarterback RG3

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Swimmers in the U8 age group head out to the 600m course during yesterday's 37th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim in the waters near Naked Fish.

Siblings show way in ocean swim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brothers Jinnosuke and Lennosuke Suzuki of Saipan Swim Club and siblings Ashley and Aasish Dangol of Tsunami Saipan led the finishers in yesterday's 37th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim

Jinnosuke completed the 1-kilometer race around the partially submerged World War II tanks in the waters near Naked Fish in 14:27 to place ahead of 12 others who joined the third longest course in the SSC-organized event and win the boys 9 to 10 age group. He got out of the water just a few seconds ahead of Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko, who timed in at 14:36. Another Tsunami Saipan swimmer, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, rounded out the Top 3 after submitting 15:39.

JINNOSUKE

LENNOSUKE

Jinnosuke's SSC teammate Taiyo Akimaru came in at fourth in the division and

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Ol'Aces down IT&E in Majors division game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Docomo Ol'Aces won the battle of teams backed by telecommunication companies after outlasting IT&E Regulators, 8-5, in their Majors division game in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Ol'Aces racked up five runs

See OL'ACES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Docomo Ol'Aces batter waits for a pitch during their game against IT&E Regulators in the Majors division of the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kagman Risers, Sonics win debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sonics and Kagman Risers made it to the win column in their first attempt after downing separate opponents in the 2016 Island-wide Men's Basketball League last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kagman dominated Run 'N Gun in the second match, 71-54, while the Sonics outclassed CES Electronics in the curtain-raiser, 76-72.

The Sonics played a balance offense and withstood CES' fourth-quarter rally to prevail in their debut and join opening day winners Ol'Aces and Ali'i on top of the team standings.

Four players scored in double figures for the Sonics with Erick Dela Rosa leading the team with his 19 points. Jack Aranda chipped in 17, Jaymark De Guzman contributed 15, and Sean Rabasto added 10. Mike Espinosa was just a deuce shy of hitting double figures after knocking in 8 markers.

CES, on the other hand, nearly had a one-man show in Syl Teregeyo, who sizzled for 26 markers. Teregeyo anchored CES' comeback bid in the final canto, which began with the Sonics still on top by 12, 61-49. Matt Duenas provided some support to Teregeyo and was the only other twin-digit scorer for CES with his 14 markers. However, the 1-2 punch failed to complete the come-from-behind win as Aranda and Dela Rosa countered with some rally-halting baskets in the homestretch.

Aranda registered 9 points in the fourth canto, including the Sonics's last 6 markers, while Dela Rosa chipped in 4 straight markers.

In the second game, the Kagman Risers led right at the opening tip, leaving Run 'N Gun with a little chance to recover.

Quarterback Andrew Palino and wingman M.J. Sakisat teamed up in the victory, combining for nearly half of Kagman's total points after posting 18 and 16 points, respectively.

First Game

Sonics 76 — Dela Rosa 19, Aranda 17, De Guzman 15,

See KAGMAN on Page 26